



HR0680

LRB098 14727 GRL 49614 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
Care Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March  
23, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, In February of 2013, the United States Department  
of Health and Human Services issued approval for the State of  
Illinois to operate a health insurance marketplace, a key  
component of the Affordable Care Act, in partnership with the  
federal government; the marketplace is meant to be a  
centralized system for individuals and small businesses to  
purchase insurance policies; and

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WHEREAS, Under the partnership marketplace, the State of  
Illinois maintains responsibility for regulating the insurance  
market and conducting consumer outreach and assistance, while  
the federal government is responsible for building and  
operating the marketplace; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois refused to release  
information regarding approved marketplace plans and rates  
prior to the October 1, 2013 open enrollment date, leaving both  
consumers and consumer assisters unprepared for open  
enrollment; and

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1           WHEREAS, The marketplaces need to average 39,000 enrollees  
2 per day to meet the federal government's goal of 7 million  
3 enrollees by March 1, 2013; and

4           WHEREAS, In the first 2 days of open enrollment, in which  
5 the federal marketplace website received heavy traffic, less  
6 than 300 people had managed to obtain insurance coverage  
7 through the marketplace; and

8           WHEREAS, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen  
9 Sebelius acknowledged in testimony before the United States  
10 House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee that the  
11 dysfunctional website has seriously hampered the rollout of the  
12 controversial law; and

13           WHEREAS, Despite President Obama's promise that those who  
14 were content with their current health insurance coverage could  
15 keep it, hundreds of thousands of consumers across the country  
16 have received notice that their current policy would be  
17 canceled; and

18           WHEREAS, A multitude of the Affordable Care Act's  
19 requirements have already been delayed in advance of the law's  
20 January 1, 2014 implementation date; these changes include a  
21 one-year delay of the "employer mandate", which requires large  
22 employers to provide health insurance to their employees, and a

1 one-year delay on the requirement to place caps on  
2 out-of-pocket insurance costs; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal government also announced that there  
4 would be delayed enforcement of several eligibility checks for  
5 marketplace subsidies; this is allowing consumers to provide  
6 necessary financial information to the government on the "honor  
7 system"; and

8 WHEREAS, Obama administration officials have ordered a  
9 "tech surge" to address the multitude of issues with the  
10 federal marketplace website; they do not expect the website to  
11 be fully functioning until at least the end of November;  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we urge Congress, in light of ongoing technological issues and  
16 the cancellation of coverage for many Americans, to delay the  
17 Affordable Care Act's "individual mandate" requirement for  
18 further examination; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Insurance is  
20 urged to release any available information regarding the number  
21 of people in Illinois whose current health insurance plan was  
22 cancelled due to new Affordable Care Act requirements and the

1 number of people in Illinois who have obtained health insurance  
2 coverage through the Illinois marketplace; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 delivered to Governor Pat Quinn, Director of the Illinois  
5 Department of Insurance Andrew Boron, Director of the Illinois  
6 Department of Healthcare and Family Services Julie Hamos, and  
7 the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.