
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING H.R. 506, THE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP THROUGH CREATIVE
FEDERALISM ACT.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau reported that the
2 number of Americans without health insurance in 2006 increased
3 to more than 47,000,000 people, representing a five per cent
4 increase from 2005; and

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6 WHEREAS, a majority of health insurance plans are regulated
7 by the federal government through Medicare, Medicaid, or the
8 Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; and

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10 WHEREAS, such an expanded federal role in health insurance
11 has diminished the role of the states in regulating insurance
12 and impeded state efforts to address the uninsured; and

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14 WHEREAS, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators
15 believes that states could enact landmark reforms should
16 Congress heed the advice of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice
17 Louis Brandeis and approach state legislatures as "laboratories
18 of democracy"; and

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20 WHEREAS, though faced with federal obstacles, in 2006,
21 state legislatures in Massachusetts and Tennessee enacted
22 comprehensive health insurance reforms designed to improve
23 access and affordability of health insurance in their respective
24 states; and

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26 WHEREAS, in January 2007, Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-
27 WI), Tom Price (R-GA), and John Tierney (D-MA) introduced
28 bipartisan legislation in the United States House of
29 Representatives, H.R. 506, The Health Partnership Through
30 Creative Federalism Act; and

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32 WHEREAS, H.R. 506 would provide federal "State Health
33 Expansion and Improvement Grants" to states to develop and
34 implement innovative comprehensive health insurance reform
35 proposals to address their respective uninsured populations; and



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WHEREAS, H.R. 506 is designed "to break the Congressional logjam regarding health care reform and provide for innovation in health care through state initiatives that expand health care coverage," according to its sponsors; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 506 would permit states to seek exceptions to otherwise applicable federal statutes, regulations, and policies, including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 506 would encourage states to implement a variety of reform options, including, but not limited to tax credit approaches, expansions of public programs such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, health savings accounts, high risk pools, single-payer systems, and purchasing pool arrangements similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 506 was co-sponsored by seventy-four members of the United States House of Representatives, including thirty-nine Democrats and thirty-five Republicans as of October 5, 2007; and

WHEREAS, a substantially similar bill, S. 2772, The Health Partnership Act, has been introduced in the United States Senate by Senators George Voinovich (R-OH) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that this body supports H.R. 506, The Health Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act, and urges members of Congress to take action on the proposal and help states address the number of uninsured Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation are urged to support H.R. 506 and S. 2772; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature commends Representatives Tammy Baldwin, Tom Price, and John Tierney, and Senators George Voinovich and Jeff Bingaman for their leadership

H.R. NO. 55

1 in developing and promoting bipartisan legislation that
2 recognizes states as "laboratories of democracy"; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
6 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
7 United States House of Representatives, the primary sponsors of
8 H.R. 506 and S. 2772, and the members of Hawaii's congressional
9 delegation.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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