
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING AN INCREASE IN THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PERCENTAGE FOR HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, under the federal Medicaid program, the Secretary
2 of Health and Human Services is statutorily required to pay each
3 quarter to each participating state an amount equal to the
4 federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) of the total amount
5 expended by the state during that quarter; and
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7 WHEREAS, the federal Medicaid statutes specify that each
8 state's federal medical assistance percentage shall be
9 determined annually by a formula that compares the state's
10 average per capita income level with the national income average
11 such that states with a higher per capita income level are
12 reimbursed a smaller share of their costs; and
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14 WHEREAS, in technical terms, 42 United States Code section
15 1396d(b), specifies that the federal medical assistance
16 percentage "for any State shall be 100 per centum less the State
17 percentage; and the State percentage shall be that percentage
18 which bears the same ratio to 45 per centum as the square of the
19 per capita income of such State bears to the square of the per
20 capita income of the continental United States (including
21 Alaska) and Hawaii"; and
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23 WHEREAS, in less technical terms, the lesser the State
24 percentage, the higher the federal medical assistance
25 percentage; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is
28 required annually to promulgate an FMAP for each state; and
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30 WHEREAS, the federal Medicaid statutes further specify that
31 the federal medical assistance percentage cannot be lower than
32 fifty per cent or higher than eighty-three per cent; and
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34 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2004, the federal medical
35 assistance percentages varied from 50 per cent in twelve states



1 to 77.08 per cent in Mississippi, and averaged 60.2 per cent
2 overall, while for Hawaii, the federal medical assistance
3 percentage in fiscal year 2004 was 58.90 per cent, which was
4 below the average of 60.2 per cent; and

5
6 WHEREAS, likewise, it appears that in fiscal year 2005, the
7 federal medical assistance percentages varied from 50 per cent
8 in thirteen states to 77.08 per cent in Mississippi, and
9 averaged 60.9 per cent overall, while for Hawaii the federal
10 medical assistance percentage in fiscal year 2005 was 58.47 per
11 cent, which again was below the average of 60.9 per cent; and

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13 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2006, the federal medical
14 assistance percentages varied from 50 per cent in thirteen
15 states to 76 per cent in Mississippi, and averaged 60.2 per cent
16 overall, while for Hawaii the federal medical assistance
17 percentage in fiscal year 2006 was 58.81 per cent, which again
18 was below the average of 60.2 per cent; and

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20 WHEREAS, for some states, the federal medical assistance
21 percentages are or were set legislatively by Congress and not
22 administratively by the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, specifically, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997,
26 Public Law No. 105-33, permanently raised the federal medical
27 assistance percentage for the District of Columbia from 50 per
28 cent to 70 per cent and raised the federal medical assistance
29 percentage for Alaska from 50 per cent to 59.8 per cent through
30 2000, and the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement
31 and Protection Act of 2000, Public Law No. 106-554, further
32 adjusted Alaska's federal medical assistance percentage to a
33 higher level for fiscal year 2001-2005; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2009, that the Congress is requested to legislatively
38 increase the federal medical assistance percentage for Hawaii;
39 and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States
43 House of Representatives, the President and the Majority Leader



1 of the United States Senate, and to the members of Hawaii's
2 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

By a joint
John M. G. [Signature]

MAR 17 2009

