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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITING  
HEALTH INSURERS FROM DENYING COVERAGE TO VICTIMS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS A PRE-EXISTING  
CONDITION.

1           WHEREAS, anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation,  
2 religion, or gender can be subject to domestic violence; and  
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4           WHEREAS, domestic violence can occur between couples who  
5 are married, living together, or who are dating; and  
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7           WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all  
8 socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels; and  
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10           WHEREAS, about one out of every four women in the country  
11 will be physically assaulted or raped by an intimate partner at  
12 some point in their lives and are more likely to be assaulted,  
13 injured, raped, or killed by a male partner than by any other  
14 type of assailant; and  
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16           WHEREAS, estimates of assaults on women by partners range  
17 from approximately two to four million annually in the United  
18 States; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the majority of women killed at work are murdered  
21 by a current or former intimate partner; and  
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23           WHEREAS, it has been a common practice among health  
24 insurers to deny coverage to victims of domestic abuse on the  
25 grounds that domestic violence is a "pre-existing condition";  
26 and  
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28           WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for victims of domestic  
29 violence to not report incidents of domestic violence for fear  
30 of losing their health insurance coverage; and  
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32           WHEREAS, according to the National Women's Law Center,  
33 although forty-two states have enacted laws to prohibit health



# H.R. NO. 28

1 insurers from classifying domestic violence as a "pre-existing  
 2 condition", Idaho, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota,  
 3 Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wyoming, and the  
 4 District of Columbia have not; and

5  
 6 WHEREAS, a more comprehensive solution requires federal  
 7 legislation to ban this unfair practice to provide victims of  
 8 domestic violence with health care coverage; now, therefore,

9  
 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 12 of 2010, that Congress is urged to support federal legislation  
 13 prohibiting health insurers from denying coverage to victims of  
 14 domestic violence by classifying domestic violence as a pre-  
 15 existing condition; and

16  
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 19 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
 20 the United States House of Representatives, and the members of  
 21 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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