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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE INCLUSION OF PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, IN THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

1           WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is  
2 now currently being debated in the United States Congress under  
3 the rubric of comprehensive national health care reform; and  
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5           WHEREAS, everyone in this country shares the need for  
6 affordable, accessible, and comprehensive health care, but women  
7 have unique roles as patients, family health care decision  
8 makers, and caregivers -- whether paid or unpaid; and  
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10          WHEREAS, yet our current health care system fails to meet  
11 the needs of far too many women, especially low-income women and  
12 minority populations; and  
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14          WHEREAS, women need health care reform with premiums and  
15 out-of-pocket costs that are affordable and with no annual and  
16 lifetime benefit caps; and  
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18          WHEREAS, women need an end to harmful insurance industry  
19 practices such as gender rating or being rejected for coverage  
20 based on health status or pre-existing conditions; and  
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22          WHEREAS, women are less likely to get health insurance  
23 through their jobs and more than twice as likely as men to get  
24 employer-sponsored coverage through their spouses. And as the  
25 economy worsens, many employers are reducing health care  
26 coverage for dependents, leaving millions of women and children  
27 at risk; and  
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29          WHEREAS, research has found that:  
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- 1           (1) One in four women are unable to pay their medical  
2           bills;
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- 4           (2) Women are more likely than men to delay or go without  
5           needed health care because of high medical costs;
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- 7           (3) Women who have to buy insurance directly from insurers  
8           are often charged more than men for the exact same  
9           coverage, a practice known as gender rating, which is  
10          capricious and unfair;
- 11
- 12          (4) It is still legal in eight states and the District of  
13          Columbia for insurers to reject women for coverage if  
14          they are survivors of domestic violence;
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- 16          (5) Insurers can reject women simply for having had a  
17          Cesarean section;
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- 19          (6) Of the three thousand five hundred insurance plans  
20          reviewed by the National Women's Law Center, only  
21          twelve per cent offered comprehensive maternity  
22          coverage; and
- 23
- 24          (7) Fully eighteen per cent of all women have no health  
25          insurance whatsoever; and
- 26

27           WHEREAS, women need comprehensive benefits, including  
28           reproductive health care. No woman should lose coverage that  
29           she has now, including coverage for termination of pregnancy;  
30           and

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32           WHEREAS, the version of the health care reform bill in the  
33           United States House of Representatives would provide the most  
34           sweeping expansion of federal prohibitions on abortion since  
35           1976, when the Hyde Amendment was enacted that has since banned  
36           federal funds for abortion in the military, the Foreign Service,  
37           the Peace Corps, Medicaid, and other federally connected health  
38           care services; and

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40           WHEREAS, an amendment proposed by Representative Bart  
41           Stupack (D-Michigan) essentially would expand the Hyde Amendment  
42           to the health care reform bill; and

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1           WHEREAS, the Stupak amendment would take away the freedom  
2 of conscience from American women and prohibits them from  
3 abortion coverage even if they pay for it with their own money  
4 by blocking abortion coverage from nearly all the health care  
5 plans made possible by health care reform; and

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7           WHEREAS, if incorporated into the final version of the  
8 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Stupak Amendment  
9 would:

- 10  
11           (1) Prevent women receiving tax subsidies from using their  
12 own money to purchase private insurance that covers  
13 abortion;  
14  
15           (2) Prevent women participating in the public health  
16 insurance exchange, administered by private insurance  
17 companies, from using one hundred per cent of their  
18 own money to purchase private insurance that covers  
19 abortion; and  
20  
21           (3) Prevent low-income women from accessing abortion  
22 entirely, in many cases; and  
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24           WHEREAS, it is crucial that women's health care needs be  
25 recognized and that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care  
26 Act include protections for women's health care, including  
27 women's reproductive health services; now, therefore,

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29           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
31 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress  
32 is strongly urged to include protections for women's health  
33 care, including women's reproductive health services in the  
34 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and  
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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's  
37 congressional delegation are urged to support the inclusion of  
38 protections for women's health care, including women's  
39 reproductive health services in the Patient Protection and  
40 Affordable Care Act; and  
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42           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
44 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the



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1 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the  
2 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: Waimani Iwona

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