
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FULLY IMPLEMENT
THE SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII IN 1994 TO RAISE
THE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TO UP TO THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF
THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, in 1994, Hawaii implemented a statewide Section
2 1115 Medicaid waiver program called QUEST to expand eligibility
3 to pregnant women, children, and nondisabled adults, to up to
4 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 1996, the program made several significant
7 changes that restricted enrollment in QUEST and implemented an
8 enrollment cap of 125,000 individuals and reinstated the
9 Medicaid resource test in a new safety net program called QUEST-
10 Net that would serve those who became ineligible for QUEST due
11 to the asset limit; and
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13 WHEREAS, in addition, the State requested QUEST enrollees
14 with incomes above 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
15 (except for pregnant women and children) and QUEST-Net enrollees
16 to pay the full premium for the program; and
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18 WHEREAS, in 1998, the State lowered the eligibility level
19 for QUEST to up to 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
20 (except for pregnant women and children), and expanded QUEST-Net
21 to include all individuals who became ineligible for QUEST; and
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23 WHEREAS, although QUEST-Net covered some adults up to 300
24 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, it was not very large as
25 the number of adults in QUEST-Net Adult was approximately 220,
26 and as of February 1, 2008, the Federal Poverty Level for QUEST-
27 Net Adult was changed from up to 300 percent to up to 200
28 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and
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1 WHEREAS, during this time when Hawaii was scaling back
2 eligibility levels, other states were exploring ways to provide
3 health insurance to uninsured individuals whose incomes were too
4 high to qualify them for public programs and who did not have
5 access to or could not afford private insurance; and

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7 WHEREAS, for example, New York created the nation's highest
8 ceiling for the State Children's Health Insurance Program
9 (SCHIP) by raising the eligibility requirement from up to 250
10 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to up to 400 percent of the
11 Federal Poverty Level, and New Jersey also raised its SCHIP
12 eligibility to up to 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level;
13 and

14
15 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, it is believed that families earning
16 over 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are more likely to
17 have access to employer-sponsored health insurance, and since it
18 is not the intent of QUEST to replace employer-sponsored health
19 coverage for dependents, an up to 300 percent of the Federal
20 Poverty Level is reasonable; and

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22 WHEREAS, inflation in health care costs has risen faster
23 than incomes, thereby putting children in families suffering
24 from economic hardship at risk of not receiving medical care;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, it is timely for Hawaii to plan, execute, and
28 maintain health insurance expansion, as well as improve the
29 availability and affordability of health care coverage; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
35 Services is requested to fully implement the Section 1115 Waiver
36 granted to Hawaii in 1994 to expand Medicaid eligibility to up
37 to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
40 Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
41 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
42 of 2013, on the progress of fully implementing the Section 1115
43 Waiver; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
3 of Human Services, Director of Finance, and Executive Director
4 of the Hawaii Health Authority.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Ryan', is written over a horizontal line.

FEB 17 2012

