
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE TO
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Medicaid, the nation's public health insurance
2 program for low-income individuals, serves nearly sixty million
3 low-income Americans and is administered at the federal level by
4 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

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6 WHEREAS, according to a publication of The Henry J. Kaiser
7 Family Foundation dated March 2011, Medicaid covers:

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9 (1) More than one in three births;
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11 (2) Eight million persons with disabilities;
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13 (3) One in four poor, nonelderly adults; and
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15 (4) Nearly nine million low-income Medicare beneficiaries;
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, under this jointly-funded federal-state program,
19 the federal government pays states for a specified percentage of
20 program expenditures called the Federal Medical Assistance
21 Percentage, which is the federal government's share of a state's
22 expenditures for Medicaid services; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Social Security Act requires the United States
25 Secretary of Health and Human Services to calculate and publish
26 the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages each year; and

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28 WHEREAS, Federal Medical Assistance Percentages are used in
29 determining the amount of federal matching funds for state
30 expenditures for assistance payments for certain social
31 services, and state medical and medical insurance expenditures;



1 and are adjusted for each state on a three-year cycle to account
2 for fluctuations in the economy and are published annually in
3 the Federal Register; and

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5 WHEREAS, states are reimbursed by the federal government
6 for part of the cost of providing medical assistance services
7 under Medicaid, with each state administering its own Medicaid
8 program while the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
9 Services monitors the state-run programs and establishes
10 requirements for service delivery, quality, funding, and
11 eligibility standards; and

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13 WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement rates are inadequate to
14 cover the full costs of medical services provided by physicians
15 and Medicaid pays physicians much less than private health
16 insurers or Medicare for the same services; and

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18 WHEREAS, physicians most often cited inadequate
19 reimbursement as the reason for not accepting Medicaid patients,
20 together with delayed reimbursement and billing requirements;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, furthermore, low Medicaid reimbursements have led
24 to fewer participating health care providers who service
25 Medicaid patients and financial hardship to some providers; and

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27 WHEREAS, the federal government should increase the Federal
28 Medical Assistance Percentage to Hawaii to enable adequate
29 reimbursement and funding of medical assistance to Medicaid
30 recipients in the State; now, 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, that the United States Department of Health and Human
35 Services is urged to increase the Federal Medical Assistance
36 Percentage to Hawaii; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
40 Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the United States



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1 Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Centers
2 for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the state Director of
3 Human Services.

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