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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY PROVIDING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND PREGNANT PERSONS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE QUALIFY FOR COVERAGE IF NOT FOR THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

1 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that all pregnant  
2 persons and children receive high-quality health care that is  
3 accessible, affordable, and equitable; and  
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5 WHEREAS, limited access to health care based solely on  
6 immigration status results in many immigrants and their families  
7 being unable to obtain affordable health care coverage through  
8 Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and  
9 health insurance exchanges established under part II of the  
10 federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA); and  
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12 WHEREAS, low-income immigrants without prenatal care are  
13 seven times more likely to give birth prematurely and five times  
14 more likely to experience neonatal death; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the average cost of medical care for health  
17 problems resulting from premature birth is \$79,000, compared to  
18 \$1,000 for a healthy birth; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the cost of hospitalizations during a severely  
21 premature newborn's first year of life can exceed \$500,000, and  
22 the cost of intensive care can exceed \$1,000,000; and  
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24 WHEREAS, lack of prenatal care results in health care costs  
25 being passed on to taxpayers; and  
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27 WHEREAS, low-income immigrant children without access to  
28 health insurance face persistent inequities in the prevention,  
29 diagnosis, and treatment of health conditions, including routine  
30 health problems and those commonly addressed with necessary



1 specialty care and mental health, substance abuse, and oral  
2 health services; and

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4 WHEREAS, children with special needs, including  
5 difficulties with hearing, vision, mobility, self-care,  
6 cognitive function, and work limitations, may qualify for  
7 Medicaid through various disability-related pathways; and

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9 WHEREAS, a 2021 study published in *Academic Pediatrics*  
10 found that for each dollar spent on children through Medicaid,  
11 the government saved \$4 on future costs, including  
12 hospitalizations and emergency visits, and when the benefits to  
13 children themselves are included, each dollar spent on Medicaid  
14 coverage generates at least \$12.66; and

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16 WHEREAS, state and federal laws deny access to Medicaid,  
17 CHIP, and health insurance exchanges established under part II  
18 of PPACA to all Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)  
19 recipients; undocumented persons; and applicants without work  
20 authorization attached to the applicant's request for registry,  
21 order of supervision, cancellation of removal or suspension of  
22 deportation, legalization under the Immigration Reform and  
23 Control Act, legalization under the Legal Immigration Family  
24 Equity Act, and asylum, except asylee children under fourteen  
25 years old; and

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27 WHEREAS, the State is home to an estimated 41,246  
28 undocumented persons; and

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30 WHEREAS, the State's undocumented and DACA-eligible  
31 residents were born in the Philippines (54.6 percent); Japan  
32 (9.3 percent); China (8.8 percent); Korea (6.2 percent); Mexico  
33 (4.6 percent); and Europe, Canada, and other countries (16.5  
34 percent) and paid an estimated \$66,000,000 in federal income  
35 taxes and nearly \$32,000,000 in state and local taxes in 2018;  
36 and

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38 WHEREAS, approximately eleven thousand of the State's  
39 undocumented persons are uninsured, and many who are insured  
40 receive individual and family health insurance through the  
41 Prepaid Health Care Act; and

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1           WHEREAS, twenty-five states provide or will soon provide  
2 health care coverage for prenatal care for all persons,  
3 regardless of immigration status, and eleven states provide or  
4 will soon provide CHIP benefits or coverage similar to Medicaid  
5 to all children, regardless of immigration status; now,  
6 therefore,  
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8           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
11 Human Services is requested to study providing Medicaid, the  
12 Children's Health Insurance Program, or similar health insurance  
13 coverage for all children and pregnant persons who would  
14 otherwise qualify for coverage under these programs if not for  
15 their immigration status; and  
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17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to  
18 include the health care opportunities, resources, and costs  
19 relating to providing the described coverages; and  
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21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
22 Services is requested to engage applicable stakeholders in the  
23 study, including immigrant health care providers, social service  
24 providers, and advocacy groups; and  
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26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
27 Services is requested to submit a report regarding the findings  
28 of the study, including any proposed legislation, to the  
29 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
30 the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney  
34 General, Director of Human Services, and President of the Inter-  
35 Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services.

