

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6015

A RESOLUTION setting forth a vision for the future of the health care system in Kansas.

WHEREAS, The future of the health care system in Kansas is balanced precariously on shrinking private health insurance coverage, expanding numbers of Kansans on medicaid and a stagnant number of uninsured persons; and

WHEREAS, Many problems in the health care system are caused by disruption of market forces and lack of competition; and

WHEREAS, The cost of health care is rising for all Kansans and represents nearly 16% of the country's gross domestic product, yet the health care system provides the best health care in the world; and

WHEREAS, The costs of medicaid are rising at an unsustainable rate and present significant fiscal problems, while shifting costs to private insurance and denying medicaid recipients the wide choice of plans and benefits which they want and deserve; and

WHEREAS, Many Kansans face special health care issues, especially those in rural communities, seniors, mothers and children, those in minority ethnic groups and inner city communities and those with special health needs such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Health is a major concern for all businesses in Kansas and there are significant workforce issues which dramatically affect the provision of health care; and

WHEREAS, The insurance industry plays a vital, central role in financing health care: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That the House of Representatives is committed to improve the health of all Kansans with a vision to expand private health care and private health insurance while decreasing the number of uninsured and those dependent on government programs, guided by principles that, whenever possible: (1) Preserve and stabilize the health care system safety net; (2) use market forces to expand private health insurance coverage, limit costs, improve quality and guarantee long term health insurance stability for all Kansans; (3) strengthen the pluralistic, world-class health system of Kansas; (4) expand private sector health care and insurance rather than rely on government assistance; (5) do not rely on individual or employer mandates or new taxes; (6) minimize the number and impact of uninsured; and (7) carefully craft programs that emphasize wellness and the health care needs of Kansans; and

Be it further resolved: That the Legislature, the Commissioner of Insurance, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, other agencies of the Executive Branch of state government and the private sector are encouraged to work together to expand the private insurance market by increasing the number of private insurance plans; promoting policies which provide affordability, portability, renewability and choice and increasing health savings accounts (HSAs); and enabling Kansans to use pretax dollars to save at least 15% on health care; and

Be it further resolved: That the Legislature, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, other agencies of the Executive Branch of state government and the United States Department of Health and Human Services are encouraged to partner together to modernize government financed health care using the National Governors Association and federal recommendations, market forces and the experience of other states to carefully redesign the Kansas state medicaid plan to give a wide choice of providers and contractors, multiple HSAs and benefit packages that target different health problems and Health Opportunity Accounts that reward healthy initiatives and personal responsibility; that the Kansas Health Policy Authority is urged to establish a task force to partner with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight to expedite Kansas state medicaid plan amendments and waivers to prevent waste, fraud and abuse, modernize senior and pediatric care and stabilize multiyear funding and to advance the initiatives listed above; and

Be it further resolved: That the Legislature, the Commissioner of Insurance, the Health Policy Authority, other agencies of the Executive Branch of state government, the private sector and the United States Department of Health and Human Services are encouraged to implement policies to transition Kansans from the uninsured and medicaid rolls to private health insurance through multiple targeted programs, including, but not limited to, premium assistance, tax credits, programs for individuals between jobs, family plans, small business plans and plans tailored to ethnic and cultural groups; and

Be it further resolved: That the Legislature, agencies of the Executive Branch of state government and the private sector are urged to collaborate to strengthen safety net clinics and emergency rooms and encourage more providers to expand charity care; and

Be it further resolved: That long term stability of state financial support for the health care and insurance system be improved through a private foundation or trust fund into which one time windfalls, asset sales, public and private grants and other revenues are paid and the earnings on such revenues be available to the state to invest in health initiatives listed above; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Executive Director and Board of the Kansas Health Policy Authority, the Insurance Commissioner, the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.