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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE TO ALL INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

1           WHEREAS, the quality and cost of healthcare affects every  
2 resident and citizen of the United States, whether the  
3 individual is covered by public or private insurance or is  
4 uninsured; and

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6           WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Hawaii's residents  
7 and families has always been of paramount concern to the  
8 Legislature and the people of the State of Hawaii; and

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10          WHEREAS, recognizing that access to health care is a  
11 fundamental human right, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii  
12 enacted the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act in 1974, the first  
13 law in the nation to set minimum standards of health care  
14 coverage for workers; and

15  
16          WHEREAS, for over forty years, the Hawaii Prepaid Health  
17 Care Act has protected the welfare of the people of Hawaii,  
18 offering residents unparalleled access to health care benefits  
19 and services through various mandates, such as requiring  
20 employers who employ one or more full-time employees to provide  
21 health insurance, setting the standards for health care coverage  
22 in Hawaii, limiting the amount that employees must contribute to  
23 premiums, and requiring employees to accept employer-provided  
24 coverage unless covered under another health insurance plan; and

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26          WHEREAS, enactment of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act  
27 has resulted in Hawaii having robust health care plans, low  
28 uninsured rates, and some of the lowest premiums in the country,  
29 and although Hawaii experiences some of the same issues relative



1 to access, quality, and cost of health care as other states  
2 across the country, the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act has  
3 ensured health care system stability throughout the State; and  
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5 WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of the Hawaii Prepaid  
6 Health Care Act, the percentage of Hawaii residents maintaining  
7 health care insurance coverage hovered in the seventy percent  
8 range; and  
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10 WHEREAS, after enactment of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care  
11 Act, the percentage of residents in Hawaii maintaining health  
12 care insurance coverage increased to the ninety percent range  
13 and has remained in that range ever since, positively impacting  
14 the health and well-being of all the residents of Hawaii; and  
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16 WHEREAS, attempts have been made over the past two decades  
17 to make universal health care a reality for all residents of the  
18 United States; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the most significant federal regulatory overhaul  
21 and expansion of medical care coverage since the establishment  
22 of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 occurred in 2010 with the  
23 passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which  
24 mandates that every citizen of the United States maintain health  
25 care insurance coverage through various means, including  
26 employer health care insurance plans, or face an income tax  
27 surcharge; and  
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29 WHEREAS, while passage of the Patient Protection and  
30 Affordable Care Act made insurance available to between  
31 32,000,000 and 50,000,000 more Americans, or 95 percent of the  
32 legal resident population, and brought the United States closer  
33 to achieving a system of universal health care, a significant  
34 number of individuals in the United States remain uninsured; and  
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36 WHEREAS, H.R. No. 676 has been introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup>  
37 Congress of the United States and establishes the Medicare for  
38 All Program to provide all individuals residing in the United  
39 States and territories of the United States with free health  
40 care that includes all medically necessary care, such as primary  
41 care and prevention, dietary and nutritional therapies,



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1 prescription drugs, emergency care, long-term care, mental  
2 health services, dental services, and vision care; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii continues  
5 to believe that the availability of health care for all is a  
6 human right, that the United States should strive to achieve a  
7 system of universal health care that includes all residents of  
8 this country, and that H.R. No. 676, introduced in the United  
9 States Congress, deserves full consideration and passage; now,  
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United  
15 States is urged to enact legislation such as H.R. No. 676 that  
16 provides universal health care to all; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro  
20 Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United  
21 States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's  
22 Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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