

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY REPRESENTATIVES KATRINA JACKSON, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BROSSETT, BURRELL, COX, DIXON, FRANKLIN, GAINES, HONORE, HUNTER, GIROD JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

HEALTH CARE: Memorializes congress to support the entire federal health care reform legislation and to take steps to ensure it is not repealed

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to support
3 the entire federal health care reform legislation and to take such steps as are
4 necessary to ensure that no provision of the legislation is repealed.

5 WHEREAS, the legislation referred to collectively as the "Affordable Care Act" or
6 "ACA" consists of the following Acts of Congress:

7 (1) The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which originated as
8 H.R. 3590 in the One Hundred Eleventh United States Congress and became Public Law No.
9 111-148.

10 (2) The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (HCERA), which originated
11 as H.R. 4872 in the One Hundred Eleventh United States Congress and became Public Law
12 No. 111-152; and

13 WHEREAS, the ACA will have a profound effect on the health and economic
14 well-being of American families, businesses, and the economy by making health care more
15 affordable for businesses and families, enabling millions of the uninsured to gain coverage,
16 thereby improving the lives of millions of Americans and giving them the peace of mind that
17 comes with knowing that they have access to health care; and

18 WHEREAS, the many significant improvements that this historic package of health
19 reforms provides for America's health care system include the following:

1 (1) A prohibition on health insurance companies denying health care coverage based
2 on pre-existing conditions and a guarantee that every American will have access to
3 high-quality health care coverage, regardless of age, gender, or health status;

4 (2) A new, regulated marketplace to promote competition among health insurance
5 companies and provide consumers with the opportunity to purchase the best plan at the best
6 price;

7 (3) The assurance that all Americans will have access to stable, high-quality health
8 care coverage, no matter where they work;

9 (4) A limit on out-of-pocket health care costs so that all Americans will have real
10 health security and peace of mind;

11 (5) Sliding-scale subsidies to make health insurance premiums affordable for
12 hard-working, middle-class families;

13 (6) A requirement that health insurance companies be accountable for how premium
14 dollars are spent, and that a majority of the premium dollars they collect be spent on patient
15 care;

16 (7) Tighter regulation of insurance company practices to prevent the abuses that
17 deprive consumers of their coverage when they need it most;

18 (8) Much-needed financial relief to small businesses through tax credits that will
19 enable them to afford coverage for their employees;

20 (9) Assistance for young adults by requiring that health insurers allow all dependents
21 to remain on their parents' plans up to age twenty-six;

22 (10) An expansion of Medicaid to millions of low-income working families who
23 currently fall through the health care coverage "cracks";

24 (11) Improvements to Medicare that will assist senior citizens and persons with
25 disabilities to afford their drugs and preventive care, and make Medicare fiscally secure;

26 (12) Investments in preventive care;

27 (13) And actions to improve the quality of health care overall and curb unnecessary
28 health care spending; and

29 WHEREAS, these health care reforms will dramatically improve the state of health
30 care across the whole of America and no less so than in our own state; and

1 WHEREAS, almost one-fifth of Louisiana's population lack any type of private or
2 public health care coverage, according to the latest figures from the Kaiser Family
3 Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, the uninsured are more likely to be burdened with medical debt and
5 unable to afford the cost of health care; and

6 WHEREAS, as a result, many forego preventative care or worse, when they are sick,
7 choose not to be treated at all; and

8 WHEREAS, in Louisiana alone, eight thousand two hundred citizens have died
9 prematurely since 1995 and, lacking comprehensive health reform legislation, another seven
10 thousand seven hundred will lose their lives by 2019, according to estimates made by
11 Families USA; and

12 WHEREAS, the increase in the number of Louisiana citizens with health care
13 coverage as a result of the new health care reforms will provide significant financial relief
14 to hospitals in our state by reducing their charity care caseloads, and thereby help these
15 facilities to better cope with the financial challenges they face and continue to provide
16 essential health care services to the people of Louisiana and jobs for hospital employees
17 throughout the state; and

18 WHEREAS, in a decision announced on June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme
19 Court in *National Federation of Independent Business Et Al. v. Sebelius, Secretary of Health*
20 *and Human Services, Et Al.* upheld the overall constitutionality of the ACA.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to support all
23 provisions of the Affordable Care Act and to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that
24 no provision of the act is repealed.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
27 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Katrina Jackson

HR No. 87

Memorializes congress to take such actions as are necessary to support all provisions of the Affordable Care Act and to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that no provision of the act is repealed.