

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 115 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, BISHOP, K. BOYLE, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, DeLUCA, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, HARKINS, KIRKLAND, MAHONEY, McGEEHAN, MOLCHANY, O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SNYDER, STURLA, THOMAS, WHEATLEY, YOUNGBLOOD AND MCCARTER, MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging adoption of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable
 2 Care Act provisions known as the Medicaid expansion, ensuring
 3 that the 613,000 Pennsylvanians who are currently uninsured
 4 will be eligible for health care coverage.

5 WHEREAS, In 2014, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
 6 Act (ACA) will expand Medicaid to people with incomes up to 133%
 7 of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$15,302 for an individual and
 8 \$31,155 for a family of four), and thereby remove state-by-state
 9 variability in Medicaid eligibility requirements for the lowest-
 10 income people in the nation by extending eligibility to
 11 nondisabled adults without minor dependent children; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court
 13 upheld the constitutionality of the ACA, but rejected that
 14 portion of the law that would have penalized states that do not
 15 comply with the expanded eligibility requirements for Medicaid
 16 by cutting off all Federal Medicaid funding to states that do
 17 not adopt the expanded eligibility provision; and

1 WHEREAS, The ACA will provide Federal Medicaid financing to
2 the states that adopt the expansion to cover all newly eligible
3 "childless" adults at 100% of Pennsylvania's Federal Medical
4 Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for the first three years of the
5 expansion, for 95% of FMAP in 2017, 94% in 2018 and 94% in 2019,
6 but the law provides that Federal financing will never be less
7 than 90% of FMAP; and

8 WHEREAS, To offset the cost of the charitable, uncompensated
9 care that some hospitals provide to low-income uninsured
10 individuals, many hospitals currently receive funds through the
11 Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program, but
12 based on the assumption that increased Medicaid enrollment under
13 the Medicaid expansion provisions of the ACA would sharply
14 reduce their numbers of uninsured patients, hospitals agreed to
15 ACA decreases in their DSH payments beginning in fiscal year
16 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals without insurance are more likely to
18 delay or to go without medical care or to rely on more expensive
19 emergency room care where often the cost of this care is shifted
20 onto the insured in the form of higher premiums, or more
21 importantly, the uninsured are more likely to die prematurely
22 because of this delay in care or the lack of health care; and

23 WHEREAS, Not participating in the ACA Medicaid expansion will
24 cause harm to the health status or contribute to the mortality
25 of some of the 613,000 Pennsylvanians who are currently
26 uninsured, cause financial harm to the hospitals and other
27 providers who treat the uninsured, cause potential harm to the
28 scores of other Pennsylvanians who are at risk of losing their
29 health insurance and to the scores of Pennsylvanians who suffer
30 the cost shift of uncompensated care; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Governor
2 Corbett to reconsider his position against Medicaid expansion
3 and accept Federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility as
4 called for under the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable
5 Care Act.