

SENATE No. 316

By Mr. Burke, petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 316) of Edward L. Burke and Carmen D. Buell for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation creating a national health program containing the principles established by the American Public Health Association. Federal Financial Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION CREATING A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM CONTAINING THE PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

1 *Whereas*, The health of the people of the United States fall short
2 of what can be achieved;

3 *Whereas*, All Americans should be entitled to comprehensive
4 community and personal health care programs which emphasize
5 health promotion and disease prevention, and provide efficient,
6 effective and high quality services;

7 *Whereas*, A growing number of Americans, estimated at 37
8 million people, have neither private health insurance nor coverage
9 by government programs;

10 *Whereas*, An additional 17 million persons have inadequate
11 health care coverage;

12 *Whereas*, The burden of providing health care for the uninsured
13 falls disproportionately on a small number of providers;

14 *Whereas*, Piecemeal approaches to these problems have not
15 been successful;

16 *Whereas*, The United States spends more than \$500 billion a
17 year on health care, constituting 11 percent of the gross national
18 product of the United States;

19 *Whereas*, This expenditure is larger than that of any other
20 nation, either per capita or as a portion of the gross national
21 product;

22 *Whereas*, The health status of Americans is worse than that of
23 the people of many other nations which spend relatively less than
24 the United States does for health care;

25 *Whereas*, Health care costs are rising at a faster rate than costs
26 for other sectors of the economy;

27 *Whereas*, The increased emphasis on profit-making in the
28 health care industry has jeopardized hospitals caring for the
29 indigent and has distorted priorities for health care; and

30 *Whereas*, Physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers
31 spend increasing amounts of time and effort in dealing with the
32 fragmented organization and financing of health care in the
33 United States, now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Massachusetts General
35 Court that the Congress should enact legislation creating a
36 national health program with the following characteristics:

37 (1) Universal Coverage

38 (2) Comprehensive benefits (including health maintenance,
39 preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services) for
40 all types of illness and all health conditions,

41 (3) Elimination of financial barriers to care,

42 (4) Financing based on ability to pay,

43 (5) Organization and administration of health care through
44 publicly accountable mechanisms to assure maximum responsive-
45 ness to public needs, with a major role for Federal, State and Local
46 governmental health agencies,

47 (6) Incentives and safeguards to ensure effective and efficient
48 organization of services and high-quality care,

49 (7) Fair payment to providers using mechanisms which
50 encourage appropriate treatment by providers and appropriate
51 utilization by consumers,

52 (8) Ongoing evaluation and planning to improve the delivery
53 of health services, with consumer and provider participation,

54 (9) Community-based disease prevention and health promotion
55 programs,

56 (10) Support of education and training programs for health
57 workers,

58 (11) Active efforts to increase the supply of appropriately
59 trained minority health professionals,

60 (12) Education of consumers about their health rights and
61 responsibilities; and be it further

62 *Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted
63 forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United
64 States, the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to
65 the members thereof from this Commonwealth.

