

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 681 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, OLIVER, EACHUS, CURRY, DePASQUALE, DeLUCA,
R. TAYLOR, GEORGE, KOTIK, MANN, MARKOSEK, MURPHY, M. O'BRIEN,
READSHAW, SIPTROTH AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 12, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 12,
2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass and the
2 President of the United States to sign legislation to extend
3 the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage extension for the
4 states' Medicaid programs to June 30, 2011.

5 WHEREAS, Medicaid is a means-tested program that provides the
6 largest source of funding for medical and health services for
7 eligible individuals, families with low incomes and individuals
8 with disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Medicaid is financed jointly by the Federal and
10 State governments; and

11 WHEREAS, The amount of funds a state receives from the
12 Federal Government for its Medicaid program is calculated
13 annually using the statutorily devised Federal Medical
14 Assistance Percentage (FMAP) formula; and

15 WHEREAS, The FMAP formula determines the costs the Federal
16 Government will pay a state for its Medicaid program, which must
17 equal at least 50%, regardless of the result of applying the
18 formula; and

1 WHEREAS, Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
2 2009 (ARRA), the Congress increased the FMAP share to help state
3 governments achieve a degree of economic stability during the
4 economic downturn; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's original FMAP rate for fiscal year
6 2009 equaled 54.5%; and

7 WHEREAS, The FMAP adjustments, commonly referred to as
8 "Enhanced FMAP," authorized under the ARRA increased
9 Pennsylvania's fiscal year 2009 FMAP to 63.1%; and

10 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Enhanced FMAP rate for fiscal year
11 2010 has been calculated at 65.9%; and

12 WHEREAS, The total amount of Federal funds Pennsylvania will
13 receive under the Enhanced FMAP has been calculated at
14 approximately \$2.5 billion; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Enhanced FMAP rate provided the
16 financial safety net that the Commonwealth desperately needed to
17 protect it from further economic decline; and

18 WHEREAS, Experts and economists maintain that Enhanced FMAP
19 is one of the most effective tools for generating economic
20 activity nationwide; and

21 WHEREAS, The likelihood exists, however, that Pennsylvania
22 will face an estimated \$850 million budget shortfall if the
23 Enhanced FMAP is not extended; and

24 WHEREAS, The provisions of the ARRA which authorized the
25 Enhanced FMAP are set to expire on December 31, 2010; and

26 WHEREAS, Recently, 47 of the nation's governors signed a
27 letter to Congress in support of a temporary extension of
28 Enhanced FMAP through June 30, 2011; and

29 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama included additional funding
30 for Enhanced FMAP in his fiscal year 2011 budget; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives has voted
2 to extend the 6.2% FMAP enhancement provided under the ARRA for
3 an additional six months; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Senate is currently considering
5 legislation that would extend Enhanced FMAP authorization to
6 June 30, 2011; and

7 WHEREAS, Since Pennsylvania and most other states continue to
8 face unprecedented budgetary shortfalls, it is essential that
9 the authorization for Enhanced FMAP be extended; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly and respectfully urge the
12 Congress of the United States to pass and President Obama to
13 sign expeditiously legislation that would provide a temporary
14 extension of the ARRA's Enhanced FMAP in order to help
15 Pennsylvania and other states that continue to struggle with
16 declining tax revenues, high levels of unemployment, poverty and
17 depressed wages; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives strongly and
19 respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to extend
20 the Enhanced FMAP to at least June 30, 2011; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member
23 of Congress from Pennsylvania and to Governor Edward G. Rendell.