

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 273 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DENLINGER, AUMENT, BAKER, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CAUSER, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DAY, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GILLEN, GROVE, HESS, KNOWLES, KRIEGER, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, PERRY, PICKETT, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROAE, SCAVELLO, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH AND BLOOM, MAY 5, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MAY 5, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to refrain from
2 imposing unfunded mandates on the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania and its citizens.

4 WHEREAS, The taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 are already facing the prospect of difficult budget cycles
6 because of diminished tax revenues and growing public
7 entitlement obligations; and

8 WHEREAS, This situation is expected to grow worse because of:

- 9 (1) an end to Federal stimulus money;
- 10 (2) unfunded pension obligations;
- 11 (3) urgent infrastructure needs;
- 12 (4) the General Assembly's other budgetary obligations;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 12% of
15 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's population is now enrolled in
16 Medicaid; and

17 WHEREAS, This enrollment costs the Commonwealth of

1 Pennsylvania billions in public assistance programs, thus making
2 welfare entitlements one of the top spending categories in the
3 State budget; and

4 WHEREAS, The Urban Institute estimates the Commonwealth of
5 Pennsylvania will see an additional 818,390 people become
6 eligible, representing a 25% increase in those enrolled in the
7 Medicaid program if Medicaid eligibility is increased to 133% of
8 the Federal Poverty Level as contained in HR No. 3590, passed by
9 the United States Senate; and

10 WHEREAS, On September 9, 2009, the President of the United
11 States promised that legislation being considered by the
12 Congress of the United States would not add to the Federal
13 deficit but was silent about states bearing the weight of
14 unfunded mandates; and

15 WHEREAS, Data from the National Conference of State
16 Legislatures shows the impact on states will be significant from
17 this increase with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's added
18 matching obligation to total \$2.31 billion in the 2014-2019
19 period; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
22 United States to refrain from imposing unfunded mandates on the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the office of each United States Senator and to the office of
26 each of the members of the United States House of
27 Representatives.