

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 884 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, DERMODY, FRANKEL, BISHOP, V. BROWN,
 BROWNLEE, DALEY, FREEMAN, GEORGE, HORNAMAN, JAMES, KIRKLAND,
 MAHONEY, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PRESTON, SANTONI,
 SCHMOTZER, STURLA, THOMAS AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 2, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, OCTOBER 2, 2012

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 682,900 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

18 WHEREAS, The ACA will provide Federal Medicaid financing to

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Not participating in the ACA Medicaid expansion will
23 cause harm to the health status or contribute to the mortality
24 of some of the 682,900 Pennsylvanians who are currently
25 uninsured, cause financial harm to the hospitals and other
26 providers who treat the uninsured, cause potential harm to the
27 scores of other Pennsylvanians who are at risk of losing their
28 health insurance and to the scores of Pennsylvanians who suffer
29 the cost shift of uncompensated care; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the

1 adoption of and urge Governor Corbett to accept Federal funding
2 to expand Medicaid eligibility as called for under the Federal
3 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.