
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 594 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2017 as "Affordable Care Act
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)
4 was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The ACA provides health insurance to approximately
7 25 million Americans, including 10.3 million in the Health
8 Insurance Marketplace and 11.9 million benefiting from their
9 state's expansion of Medicaid; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3 million young adults have the
11 ability to stay on their parents' health insurance plan due to
12 the ACA; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania participates in the
14 ACA through a federally facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace
15 and is one of 31 states and the District of Columbia that have
16 expanded Medicaid; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 700,000 Pennsylvanians receive health
18 insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion, which was

1 implemented by Governor Tom Wolf in February 2015; and

2 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.4 million people in Pennsylvania
3 have a preexisting health condition; and

4 WHEREAS, The ACA provides security for vulnerable Americans
5 who were previously denied health coverage because of
6 preexisting conditions such as diabetes, cancer or asthma; and

7 WHEREAS, An estimated 89,000 young adults in Pennsylvania
8 have benefited from the ACA provision that allows individuals
9 who are up to 26 years of age to stay on their parents' health
10 insurance plans; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the ACA, health plans are required to cover
12 preventive health services, including immunizations, cancer
13 screenings, contraception and mammograms, at no extra cost to
14 consumers; and

15 WHEREAS, Coverage of preventive care helps 6.1 million
16 Pennsylvanians stay healthy; and

17 WHEREAS, Under the ACA, more than 51,000 Pennsylvanians have
18 access to substance use disorder treatment through coverage
19 obtained through the Health Insurance Marketplace; and

20 WHEREAS, Since 2015, an additional 124,000 Pennsylvanians
21 receive coverage for substance use disorder treatment through
22 Medicaid expansion; and

23 WHEREAS, More than 426,000 Pennsylvanians were enrolled in
24 the Health Insurance Marketplace as of February 3, 2017; and

25 WHEREAS, Nearly 1.1 million Pennsylvanians under 65 years of
26 age have health coverage because of the ACA; and

27 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, the uninsured rate fell from 10.2%
28 in 2010 to 5.6% in 2016, the lowest it has ever been; and

29 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians purchasing health coverage in the
30 individual market received nearly \$1 billion in premium

1 subsidies in 2016; and

2 WHEREAS, An estimated 11,700 Pennsylvanians were saved from
3 catastrophic out-of-pocket medical costs and approximately
4 37,100 Pennsylvanians did not have to borrow money to pay bills
5 or skip payments because of Medicaid expansion; and

6 WHEREAS, An estimated 310 deaths were prevented in 2016
7 because of Medicaid expansion; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2015, an estimated 297,000 Medicare beneficiaries
9 each saved an average of \$1,000 on prescription drugs because of
10 the closing of the Medicare donut hole, which represents a total
11 of \$313 million in savings for older adults in Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, Uncompensated care in hospitals in Pennsylvania was
13 reduced by approximately \$280 million in 2016 because of
14 Medicaid expansion; and

15 WHEREAS, Open enrollment for health insurance for 2018 runs
16 from November 1 through December 15, 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals interested in applying for health care
18 coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace can:

19 (1) apply online at www.healthcare.gov;

20 (2) apply by phone at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-
21 4325);

22 (3) visit assisters in the community to get information,
23 apply and enroll in person; or

24 (4) complete and mail a paper application;

25 and

26 WHEREAS, Further information about how to apply for health
27 insurance can be found at www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-
28 800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325); and

29 WHEREAS, The ACA has helped millions of Pennsylvanians access
30 affordable and quality health care, prevent personal financial

1 bankruptcy from medical bills and have the ability to maintain a
2 better quality of life and be productive members of society;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 month of November 2017 as "Affordable Care Act Month" in
6 Pennsylvania; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge
8 Pennsylvanians who do not have health insurance coverage to sign
9 up as soon as possible in order to receive coverage beginning
10 January 1, 2018.