

CS/HM 1349

2012

House Memorial

A memorial to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting approval of waivers enabling planned statewide implementation of Florida's Medicaid reform program.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature believes that Medicaid reform should be both pro-patient and pro-taxpayer and Florida's Medicaid Reform pilot program has achieved both, and

WHEREAS, legislation passed during the 2011 legislative session implemented statewide Medicaid reform based on the successful pilot program, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid patients should have more control over their health future than the current system allows, and care decisions should not be made by politicians and bureaucrats, and instead should be made by Medicaid patients and doctors based on specific health care needs, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers should have peace of mind that their sacrifice is funding an efficient, affordable, and sustainable Medicaid safety net that keeps patients healthy and that, as the cost of maintaining traditional Medicaid coverage continues to grow, they are not threatened with tax hikes and service cuts to fund a failing program, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid patients in counties where the Medicaid reform pilot program was implemented are healthier and happier with their care than patients enrolled in traditional Medicaid managed care and commercial health maintenance organization plans, have better health outcomes based on a series of

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29 benchmark indicators, have more plan options, and have access to
 30 health services not covered by any other Medicaid program in the
 31 nation, and

32 WHEREAS, competition within Florida's pilot program has
 33 resulted in better and more customized benefits for patients,
 34 more benefit coverage than traditional plans, and lower costs
 35 for patients, and

36 WHEREAS, Florida taxpayers have saved up to \$118 million
 37 annually since 2006 when Florida's five-county Medicaid reform
 38 pilot program took effect, and approval of Florida's waiver
 39 requests will allow Florida taxpayers to save an estimated \$901
 40 million annually, and

41 WHEREAS, the approval of Florida's waiver requests will
 42 allow all Florida residents to enjoy the benefits of Medicaid
 43 reform that is efficient, affordable, and sustainable, NOW,
 44 THEREFORE,

45
 46 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 48 That the Legislature, in the best interests of the citizens
 49 of the State of Florida, requests the Centers for Medicare and
 50 Medicaid Services to approve Florida's requested waivers
 51 allowing Florida's Medicaid reform to be implemented statewide.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 53 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 54 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 55 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 56 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.