



SR-26 (2017-2018)

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ENROLLED MARCH 14, 2017

PASSED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2017

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2017–2018 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 26

Introduced by Senators Hernandez and De León

March 07, 2017

Relative to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 26, Hernandez.

WHEREAS, Over the first two years of full implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) (Affordable Care Act), California's uninsured rate decreased by half—the largest percentage point decline in the uninsured rate of any state—from 17.2 percent in 2013 to 8.6 percent in 2015, according to the United States Census Bureau, with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicating a further fall to 7.1 percent in the first nine months of 2016; and

WHEREAS, This decline, from 6.5 million uninsured individuals in 2013 to 3.3 million uninsured individuals in 2015, is a historic accomplishment that reaches across all income levels, geographic regions, and ethnic groups in California; and

WHEREAS, In June 2016, nearly 3.7 million individuals received coverage through the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid eligibility expansion; and

WHEREAS, Over 13 million children and adults—approximately one-third of the population—now receive health care coverage through the Medi-Cal program in California; and

WHEREAS, Since the California Health Benefit Exchange, also known as Covered California, opened its doors, it has cumulatively enrolled 2.5 million people into health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, Currently, nearly 1.4 million people are enrolled in health care coverage through Covered California, with approximately 90 percent receiving federal subsidies; and

WHEREAS, The lifeblood of these coverage expansions in California is the federal funding received through the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, California's strong consumer protections for health care coverage, access to comprehensive health coverage, including reproductive health care services, and vigorous regulatory system are threatened by the American Health Care Act under consideration in Congress; and

WHEREAS, The American Health Care Act will result in the elimination of all federal funding for Planned Parenthood, a reduction of tax credits and an increase in premiums for many low- and moderate-income Californians, the elimination of cost-sharing subsidies, a repeal of the Medicaid entitlement to coverage, the elimination of enhanced federal funding for new enrollment in Medi-Cal in 2020 resulting in a massive shift of costs to the state, more uninsured Californians, and fewer Californians receiving affordable coverage; and

WHEREAS, The American Health Care Act under consideration in Congress provides \$600 billion in tax cuts primarily to upper-income individuals, implements an "age tax" that allows insurers to charge an older person five times the amount charged to a young adult, and proposes that income-based premium subsidies would be replaced by age-based subsidies that hurt moderate-income individuals and makes insurance unaffordable for all but the least healthy; and

WHEREAS, Millions of Americans rely on the essential provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including, among others, premium tax credits, cost-sharing subsidies, and easily comparable comprehensive coverage; and

WHEREAS, Since the Affordable Care Act was passed in March 2010, the United States private sector added over 15,000,000 jobs and set a record for consecutive months of job growth; and

WHEREAS, Health care policy is extremely complex because it involves the lives and well-being of hundreds of millions of Americans, impacts the national economy in innumerable ways, and involves complex laws and regulations, insurance markets, and consumer protections; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate affirms its strong support for the Affordable Care Act and calls upon the United States Congress to reject any effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act unless it is simultaneously replaced with an alternative program that meets the standards clearly and consistently articulated by President Trump: that not one American will lose coverage and that coverage will be more affordable and of higher quality for all Americans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urges Congress to not jeopardize the health of millions of Americans by pushing through irresponsible policy in late-night hearings, but instead allow for comprehensive public review, including evaluations by the Congressional Budget Office and relevant policy committees, so that Americans have the opportunity to offer input and have their concerns heard; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.