

House Resolution 1114

By: Representatives May of the 111th, Cox of the 102nd, Roberts of the 154th, Sims of the 169th, Burns of the 157th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging Congressional leaders to allow Georgians to view the final discussions on health
2 reform on C-SPAN and other electronic media outlets; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, national health reform now being considered by the U.S. Congress has a
4 significant impact on the quality of life of every Georgian and every American; and
- 5 WHEREAS, national health reform has serious fiscal impact on the budget of every state
6 government, including Georgia, which will require additional state funding; and
- 7 WHEREAS, expanding state based programs such as Medicaid and SCHIP in a national
8 initiative of legislation on health reform have a direct impact on the operations of state
9 governments, including Georgia, and thereby create a compelling state interest in the process
10 and specific provisions of any successful health reform legislation adopted by Congress; and
- 11 WHEREAS, several governors including Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and California
12 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have expressed serious concerns about the implications
13 of national health care reform for states; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the National Governor's Association (NGA) has express concerns that "any
15 reforms approved at the federal level must allow states flexibility to adapt to local conditions
16 and retain the primary state roles of administration, regulation, and consumer protection. It
17 is also important that this framework support the role that states play in innovations around
18 delivery system reform and value-based purchasing"; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the NGA further expressed concerns about unfunded federal mandates by
20 stating, "sufficient financing mechanisms" must "ensure that coverage and delivery system
21 reform goals can be met. On their own, states are not well-positioned to sustain increases in
22 their health care budgets"; and

23 WHEREAS, the current versions of health reform on the national level do not provide the
24 appropriate federal levels of funding necessary for states, except for Nebraska; and

25 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia and the entire country have a personal and vested
26 interest in the details of any successful health care reform initiative adopted by Congress; and

27 WHEREAS, as a presidential candidate, Barack Obama repeatedly promised that all
28 negotiations on national health reform would be open to the public and aired on C-SPAN so
29 that the public could have input as to the contents of any national health reform legislation;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, C-SPAN President Brian Lamb issued a letter to Congressional leaders on
32 December 30, 2009, requesting that Congress allow C-SPAN and other electronic media to
33 broadcast the final phases of the health reform debate, which request mirrors closely the
34 campaign promises for transparency in this debate by President Obama.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY that
36 the members of this body urge Congressional leaders to allow Georgians to view the final
37 discussions on health reform on C-SPAN and other electronic media outlets.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Congressional leaders.