

House Resolution 280

By: Representatives Jones of the 53rd, Thomas of the 56th, Scott of the 76th, Sharper of the 177th, Brooks of the 55th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the question of how to provide comprehensive, quality health care to all
4 Georgians regardless of income, health status, age, or gender has been one the Georgia
5 General Assembly has asked itself time and time again; and

6 WHEREAS, there are approximately one-half million uninsured Georgians who would be
7 eligible for Medicaid if the program were expanded under the Affordable Care Act; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2010, our state faced one of the largest Medicaid deficits in history, with a
9 \$600 million difference between the funds available and the services needed to adequately
10 care for Georgia's Medicaid patients; and

11 WHEREAS, a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation says the program would cost \$2.5
12 billion over ten years while providing one-half million uninsured and poor Georgians with
13 health care coverage; and

14 WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act would provide 100 percent
15 federal government coverage of the costs of new enrollees for two years and then 90 percent
16 coverage in subsequent years, and it would result in more than \$33 billion in new federal
17 money flooding Georgia over a ten-year period; and

18 WHEREAS, the \$33 billion in federal funds would flow into the Georgia economy and
19 provide nonexportable health care jobs across the socioeconomic spectrum; and

20 WHEREAS, Kaiser estimates that the cost of expanding Medicaid would be equal to less
21 than 1 percent of the state's general fund spending; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia could save \$726 million in uncompensated care by expanding
23 Medicaid; and

24 WHEREAS, currently, every Georgian with private health insurance is charged an average
25 of \$1,300 per year, which is buried in other health care costs, to pay for those without health
26 coverage.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 this body urges the Governor to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act
29 in order to provide health care to one-half million uninsured Georgians and to bring in over
30 \$30 billion to grow and create jobs in the health care industry.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Nathan Deal.