

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30
INTRODUCED BY K. FUREY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY THE METHODOLOGY FOR EXPANDING THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND FOR MANAGING AN EXPANDED PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Children's Health Insurance Program has provided thousands of uninsured Montana children with coverage for basic health care services since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the state-federal program has proved successful throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Congress has given states a great deal of freedom to design programs that best meet their needs and to explore ways to expand coverage to additional children; and

WHEREAS, the segment of Montana children of all ages who had no private or public health insurance stood at 16% in 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study and make recommendations on how to include all Montana children in the Children's Health Insurance Program. The study must include but not be limited to the following elements:

- (1) the types of health insurance coverage available to Montana children;
- (2) the number of Montana children insured through Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Montana Comprehensive Health Association Plan, and private insurance policies, as well as the number of uninsured Montana children;
- (3) how to best maximize the use of federal funds to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover more Montana children and the amount of state funds necessary to do so; and
- (4) the best way to structure an expanded program, including but not limited to ways to keep administrative costs low, serve as many children as possible, and establish cost-sharing policies based on the family income of the insured child.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

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