

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to commend the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services upon the success of Medicaid expansion.

WHEREAS, thirty-one states and the District of Columbia have expanded their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act to cover adults who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$16,394 per year; and

WHEREAS, those states have seen marked decreases in their uninsured rates, substantial savings in their budgets due to greater collections of revenue from existing taxes on health providers, and a steep decline in the amount of uncompensated care provided by area hospitals; and

WHEREAS, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 72 million Americans are now enrolled in Medicaid, an increase of almost 20 million individuals since the provisions of the Affordable Care Act became law; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, one of the most recent states to expand its Medicaid program, is poised to save almost \$1 billion through federal matching funds, an amount that could go a long way in a state with a looming budget gap of almost \$800 million; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky projects savings of \$820 million, net of costs, between 2014 and 2021 as a result of Medicaid expansion, while Arkansas estimates a net positive impact of \$637 million on the state's budget between 2014 and 2021 through its Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, those states that have chosen to expand their Medicaid programs have seen a positive impact on budgets, improved economies, and increased access to primary and preventive care and continuity of coverage for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, not only has Medicaid expansion led to large gains in health insurance coverage throughout the country and saved participating states billions of dollars, it has saved the lives of countless Americans who are now afforded the dignity of health care coverage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the successful expansion of Medicaid, thank them for providing health security for those individuals who were previously affected by the Medicaid coverage gap, and recognize them for the needed fiscal relief they have bestowed on those states who have availed themselves of the Medicaid expansion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.