



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MESSAGE

I signed House Concurrent Resolution 58, which urges the Congress to enact federal legislation to create a Medicaid block grant.

The Congressional resolution would provide states with more flexibility to tailor each state's Medicaid program to the needs of its recipients by block granting funds. While I strongly believe that increased administrative flexibility in Medicaid would benefit Texas, I would like to caution against setting the state maintenance of effort requirements and any other block grant requirements at levels that are difficult for states to maintain over a period of years, particularly if Medicaid caseloads decline.

I look forward to working with the Texas congressional delegation on this legislation during the 108th Congress.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea
GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 21 2003

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, State Medicaid spending currently accounts for
2 approximately 22 percent of total state spending; and

3 WHEREAS, Under the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage,
4 the federal share of state Medicaid spending provided to the State
5 of Texas has decreased by 4.2 percent over the past 10 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Average monthly Medicaid caseloads in the State of
7 Texas are projected to increase to 2,885,583 by fiscal year 2005
8 from 2,376,193 in fiscal year 2003; and

9 WHEREAS, Prescription drug costs are a major factor driving
10 Medicaid expenditures, and annual Medicaid prescription levels in
11 the State of Texas are projected to rise to 40,257,515 by fiscal
12 year 2005, from 33,859,094 in fiscal year 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office projects that
14 Medicaid spending under the current system will more than double by
15 the year 2012; and

16 WHEREAS, The growth in federal spending of the Medicaid and
17 welfare entitlements is astronomical and spiraling, significantly
18 increasing the federal budget costs; and

19 WHEREAS, This growth will never be controlled unless the
20 State of Texas has autonomous management of the program, free from
21 federal mandates regarding individual entitlement, eligibility
22 groups, benefits, payment rates, and financing structures to allow
23 most citizens of the State of Texas to benefit from the Medicaid and
24 welfare programs; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas will be able to design and develop
2 innovative, efficient, and productive medical assistance programs
3 that will meet the needs of the residents within the State of Texas'
4 budget capacity; and

5 WHEREAS, In the State of Texas, there exists the possibility
6 to improve patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness with a statewide
7 implementation of consumer-directed care under the state medical
8 assistance program; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact
11 the appropriate legislation to pass federal funds on to states via
12 block grants to be used for public welfare and Medicaid purposes;
13 and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
15 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the
16 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
17 senate of the United States Congress, the secretary of the United
18 States Department of Health and Human Services and all the members
19 of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
20 resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record of
21 the United States of America.

Delisi

David Suskunst

President of the Senate

Jim Cullum

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 58 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 90, Nays 45, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 58 was adopted by the Senate on May 29, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Patsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:

20 JUN 03

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 PM O'CLOCK

Jean Shea
JUN 21 2003
Secretary of State