A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THAT FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
BENEFITS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED TO PERONS AFTER THEIR
CONVICTION OF A CRIME, AND TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE
APPLICATION FOR THOSE BENEFITS FOR PERSONS INCARCERATED IN LOCAL
FACILITIES IF THEY DO NOT SEEK CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY FOR THOSE
BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, when a person is convicted of a crime in this state
and incarcerated in a local facility, it is generally the
responsibility of the local government to bear the costs of
providing medical care to that person during his or her
incarceration; and

WHEREAS, at the time of their conviction, many of those
persons are recipients of medical assistance benefits from
programs of the federal government, such as Medicare, Medicaid or
veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, after those persons are incarcerated, the federal
medical assistance benefits are often discontinued, either because
of the requirements of federal law or regulation or because the
persons do not pursue continued eligibility for those benefits;
and

WHEREAS, if those persons continued to receive the federal
medical assistance benefits during their incarceration, the local
governments would be relieved of the financial burden of paying
all or part of the costs of providing medical care for them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
THEREIN, That we urge the United States Congress to enact
appropriate legislation that will (1) provide that when a person
who is receiving medical assistance benefits from a federal
government program is convicted of a crime, those benefits will
continue to be provided to the person after his or her conviction,
and (2) authorize local governments to make application for
federal medical assistance benefits for persons incarcerated in
local facilities if those persons do not seek continued
eligibility for those benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
furnished to each member of the Mississippi Congressional
Delegation, the Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives, the President and President Pro Tempore of the
United States Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the
United States House of Representatives and the United States
Senate, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health
and Human Services, the Secretary of the United States Department
of Veterans Affairs, and members of the Capitol Press Corps.