

By: Representative Robertson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE MARCH 10-16, 2003, AS
2 "COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK IN MISSISSIPPI."

3 WHEREAS, according to the latest Census Bureau report, there
4 were more than 41 million uninsured Americans in the year 2001,
5 which is up 1.4 million from the previous year with eight out of
6 ten of those being working families, and in most cases the main
7 earners in these families either had jobs that offered no health
8 coverage or their premiums were unaffordable; and

9 WHEREAS, the report shows that 870,000 Mississippians or
10 34.9% of the state's nonelderly population were uninsured, which
11 made Mississippi one of nine states where more than one in three
12 people under age 65 went without health insurance during that
13 period; and

14 WHEREAS, because uninsured Americans cannot afford needed
15 medical care, they live sicker and die younger than Americans with
16 health coverage; and

17 WHEREAS, the number of uninsured Americans is rising for
18 several reasons: first, the economy has slowed and more people
19 are unemployed and without health coverage; second, health care
20 costs are rising at double-digit annual rates, making health
21 coverage increasingly unaffordable for employers as well as
22 individual consumers; third, as states experience fiscal
23 shortfalls, they are cutting back on public health coverage
24 programs, such as Medicaid, causing some low-income families to
25 lose health coverage; and given these trends, the problem of the
26 uninsured promises to grow worse, not better, in the coming years;
27 and



28 WHEREAS, former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter have
29 pledged their support to a national initiative to focus attention
30 on the plight of the tens of millions of Americans who lack health
31 insurance; and

32 WHEREAS, these former Presidents will serve as honorary
33 cochairs of "Cover the Uninsured Week," a week-long series of
34 events which will be held from March 10 through March 16, 2003, in
35 communities from coast to coast which is being organized by The
36 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a diverse group of national
37 organizations; and

38 WHEREAS, it is unconscionable that 41 million citizens of
39 this great nation do not have basic health care coverage while
40 America's strength lies in the health and well-being of its
41 families and children which is why this nation cannot continue to
42 ignore the plight of the uninsured as we shape its future; and

43 WHEREAS, "Cover the Uninsured Week" will sponsor hundreds of
44 grassroots events in communities across the United States, as well
45 as a major national kick-off event in Washington, D.C. Extensive
46 paid television and print advertising will be used in conjunction
47 with these events. Activities will be held on the premises of
48 businesses, in union halls, on the campuses of major hospitals and
49 medical schools, as well as in churches, synagogues and mosques.
50 Organizers are planning health fairs for the uninsured, town hall
51 meetings where elected officials will hear from their
52 constituents, on-campus educational programs, discussions between
53 employer and labor groups, community-wide interfaith events and
54 more; and

55 WHEREAS, "Cover the Uninsured Week" is sponsored by these
56 diverse national organizations: U.S. Chamber of Commerce;
57 American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
58 (AFL-CIO); The Business Roundtable; Service Employees
59 International Union; American Medical Association; American Nurses
60 Association; Health Insurance Association of America; Blue Cross



61 and Blue Shield Association; Healthcare Leadership Council;
62 Families USA; American Hospital Association; Federation of
63 American Hospitals; Catholic Health Association of the United
64 States; AARP; United Way of America; and The Robert Wood Johnson
65 Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy dedicated
66 exclusively to the health and health care of all Americans:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
68 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
69 THEREIN, That the Legislature hereby designates the week of March
70 10-16, 2003, as "Cover the Uninsured Week in Mississippi" in order
71 to participate in nationally sponsored events to focus on the
72 problem of the uninsured in the United States and particularly in
73 Mississippi.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall
75 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the national
76 sponsors of this event and to Mississippi's congressional
77 delegation, and that this resolution shall be made available to
78 the Capitol Press Corps.

