

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Thames, To: Rules
King, Carmichael, Dearing,
Tollison, Butler, Horhn, Morgan,
Posey, Cuevas, Lee (47th),
Dawkins, Albritton, Walley,
Turner, Jackson (11th), Hyde-
Smith, Walls, Frazier, Jordan,
Browning, Thomas, Wilemon,
Jackson (32nd), Simmons

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION FINDING THAT IT IS IN THE PUBLIC
2 INTEREST TO EXTEND COVERAGE OF MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN THE POVERTY
3 LEVEL AGED AND DISABLED (PLADs) CATEGORY; IF SUCH RECIPIENTS HAVE
4 NOT OBTAINED COVERAGE BY THE SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE, IT IS IN THE
5 PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE GOVERNOR CALL A SPECIAL SESSION TO
6 PROVIDE CONTINUED COVERAGE; TO CREATE A JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF
7 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND
8 MEANS TO MAINTAIN AND MAXIMIZE CONTINUED COVERAGE OF OUR MOST
9 MEDICALLY VULNERABLE CITIZENS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 WHEREAS, an ill-timed and hasty response to a federal law
11 requiring changes in health care coverage by 2006 will prematurely
12 cut 65,000 Mississippians from Medicaid health care; and

13 WHEREAS, these 65,000 Mississippians are our poor, elderly,
14 disabled and most medically vulnerable citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, this ill-timed rush to revise coverage does not
16 provide an adequate transition in order to give our vulnerable
17 citizens time to obtain alternative medical care coverage; and

18 WHEREAS, the extension of Medicaid health care coverage to
19 the poverty level aged and disabled (PLADs) category is literally
20 a life or death matter to some of these medically vulnerable
21 citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, in response to the impending crisis, Governor Haley
23 Barbour implemented a Medicaid transition plan and extended
24 coverage until September 15, 2004; and

25 WHEREAS, in addition to other measures, Governor Haley
26 Barbour obtained a federal commitment which allows PLADs
27 beneficiaries an exclusive advance enrollment opportunity for
28 prescription drug cards and patient assistance programs:

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE
30 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That:

31 (1) We do hereby find that it is in the public interest that
32 coverage of our Medicaid recipients in the poverty level aged and
33 disabled (PLADs) category continue, and if most of these
34 recipients do not obtain coverage by the September 15 deadline,
35 then it is in the public interest that the Governor call a special
36 session to provide continued coverage and we urge him to do so.

37 (2) There is hereby created a joint select study committee
38 of the Senate and House of Representatives which shall study
39 eligibility requirements and ways to maintain and maximize
40 continued coverage of our most medically vulnerable citizens and
41 the means to fund the continuation of such coverage. The joint
42 select committee shall report its findings and recommendations to
43 the Legislature on or before January 4, 2005; and upon the
44 presentation of such report the joint committee shall be
45 dissolved.

46 (3) The committee shall consist of the Chairman of the
47 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Chairman of the
48 House Public Health and Human Services Committee, who shall serve
49 as co-chairmen of the committee; Chairman of the Senate
50 Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the House Appropriations
51 Committee, Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Chairman of
52 the House Medicaid Committee, six (6) members of the Senate
53 appointed by the President of the Senate, and six (6) members of
54 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
55 House. Appointments shall be made within fifteen (15) days after
56 the adoption of this resolution by the Legislature; and, within
57 fifteen (15) days thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by
58 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, the
59 committee shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership
60 a secretary who shall be responsible for keeping all records of
61 the committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall
62 constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the
63 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of

64 a majority of the members of the joint committee from each house
65 shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of
66 all meetings, such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days
67 prior to the date on which a meeting is to be held.

68 (4) Members of the committee shall be paid from the
69 contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the same
70 manner as provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is
71 not in session; however, no per diem or expense for attending
72 meetings of the committee will be paid while the Legislature is in
73 session. No committee member, except the co-chairmen, may incur
74 per diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by
75 vote, at a meeting of the committee, which action shall be
76 recorded in the official minutes of the meeting.

77 (5) The committee shall utilize clerical and legal staff
78 already employed by the Legislature, and any other staff
79 assistance made available to it. To effectuate the purpose of
80 this resolution, each department, division, board, bureau,
81 commission or agency of the state shall, at the request of a
82 co-chairman of the committee, provide to the committee such
83 facilities, assistance and accurate data as will enable the
84 committee properly to carry out its task.