

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 627

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL
2 DELEGATION TO DO ALL WITHIN THEIR POWER TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESS
3 TIMELY REAUTHORIZES THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
4 (CHIP).

5 WHEREAS, the health of our children is of paramount
6 importance to families in the State of Mississippi. Poor child
7 health is a threat to the educational achievement, social and
8 psychological well-being of the children of our state; and

9 WHEREAS, protecting the health of our children is essential
10 to the well-being of our youngest citizens and the quality of life
11 in Mississippi; and

12 WHEREAS, the State Children's Health Insurance Program
13 (CHIP), which has enrolled thousands of uninsured children in
14 Mississippi since its inception in 1998, is an integral part of
15 the arrangements for health benefits for the children of this
16 state; and

17 WHEREAS, CHIP provides insurance coverage for uninsured
18 children in Mississippi up to age 19 whose family income does not
19 exceed 200% of Federal Poverty Level. A child must be determined
20 ineligible for Medicaid before eligibility for CHIP can be
21 considered. Children with current health insurance coverage at
22 the time of application are not eligible for CHIP; and

23 WHEREAS, Mississippi CHIP beneficiaries enrolled in the
24 program averaged 63,547 in FY2006; and

25 WHEREAS, CHIP was not reauthorized by Congress last year. It
26 is up for reauthorization this year (by the end of the federal
27 fiscal year - September) and there is much concern that some
28 states will run out of funding very soon. Contrary to what has

29 been written in some national media, it is uncertain if the
30 Mississippi CHIP Program will be solvent through the federal
31 fiscal year. Other states are looking at dramatic cuts and a
32 possible shutdown of its CHIP program beginning as early as next
33 month; and

34 WHEREAS, CHIP is a valuable program in preserving child
35 wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving
36 health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs. The
37 Legislature considers that federal funding for CHIP is
38 indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest
39 means in Mississippi:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
41 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE CONCURRING THEREIN, That the Legislature
42 urges the members of the Mississippi congressional delegation to
43 the United States Congress to do all within their power to ensure
44 that Congress timely reauthorizes the State Children's Health
45 Insurance Program (CHIP) to assure continued federal funding for
46 the CHIP in Mississippi.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature urges the
48 Governor to use his best efforts to work with the Mississippi
49 congressional delegation to ensure that CHIP is reauthorized in a
50 timely manner.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
52 transmitted to the members of the Mississippi congressional
53 delegation, the Governor and be made available to the members of
54 the Capitol Press Corps.