

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGER.

2057L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, every person in Missouri and the United States deserves access to
affordable, quality health care; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, there is a growing crisis in health care in the United States, manifested in
5 rising health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased international
6 business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, the United States Census Bureau's 2012 Current Population Survey (CPS)
9 estimates that approximately 877,000 Missourians lacked health insurance in 2012; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, those insured now often experience unacceptable medical debt and
12 sometimes life-threatening delays in obtaining health care; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illnesses or medical bills;
15 and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the rising cost of insuring state employees and teachers can best be met,
18 not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly funded health
19 insurance program; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the complex bureaucracy arising from our system of fragmented, for-profit,
22 multi-payer system of health care financing consumes approximately 30% of United States health
23 care spending; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, these problems are not solved by the 2010 federal health care reform
26 legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, independent research by Kenneth E. Thorpe, PhD, found in 2003 that if
29 Missouri adopted a single payer, universal health program with benefits more generous than 75%
30 of all private insurance benefits in the state, Missouri health care spending would decline by a
31 savings of \$1.3 billion in administrative costs alone under a streamlined administrative structure;
32 and

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34 **WHEREAS**, in February 2013, United States Representative John Conyers re-introduced
35 H.R. 676, the Improved and Expanded Medicare for All Act, in the United States House of
36 Representatives for the 113th Congress, which would provide a universal, comprehensive,
37 single-payer system of high quality national health insurance:

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39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
40 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
41 concurring therein, hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact the Improved
42 and Expanded Medicare for All Act sponsored by United States Representative John Conyers;
43 and

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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
46 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
47 President of the United States and each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

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