

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 [SCR 1]

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint a committee of thirty-six members, one-half from the Senate and one-half from the House to cooperate in making all necessary plans and arrangements for the participation of the General Assembly in the inauguration of the executive officials of the State of Missouri on January 10, 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee be authorized to cooperate with any other committees, officials or persons planning and executing the inaugural ceremonies keeping with the traditions of the great State of Missouri.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3 [SCR 3]

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, more than one million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, each year 40,000 babies are born with congenital heart defects in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, despite these conditions, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Senate, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize February 14th, as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day in Missouri.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 [SCS SCR 6]

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States enjoy one of the most important economic and strategic international relationships that exists today; and

WHEREAS, together, Taiwan and the United States promote a shared belief in freedom, democracy, and market principles; and

WHEREAS, the level of mutual investment between Taiwan and the United States is quite high; and

WHEREAS, streamlined foreign investment procedures developed under a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would lead to further investment by firms in both Taiwan and the United States and would create new business opportunities and new jobs; and

WHEREAS, a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would encourage greater innovations and manufacturing efficiencies by stimulating joint technological development, practical applications, and new cooperative ventures; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the United States International Trade Commission supports the negotiation of a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement; and

WHEREAS, a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would build on the existing strong relations between Taiwan and the United States to simultaneously boost Taiwan's security and democracy and serve the broader interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby support the negotiations of a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7 [SS SCR 7]

WHEREAS, musculoskeletal conditions are responsible for approximately 50 percent of all health-related military disability discharges and the most common non-traumatic cause of functional impairment during military operations; and

WHEREAS, chiropractic services often are used to treat musculoskeletal conditions, and Congress established chiropractic benefits and services for both active duty military within the U.S. Department of Defense and for veterans within the Veterans' Affairs health care systems; and

WHEREAS, doctors of chiropractic practice are in nearly 50 military treatment facilities, primarily testing musculoskeletal conditions and slowly are being added to the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, there currently is no enterprise coordinating and guiding collaborative research efforts between preeminent chiropractic colleges, scientists, and the military researchers to address the primary questions surrounding integration of chiropractic into military health care environments; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to establish a robust, collaborative, national program to address the continued integration of chiropractic health care into the Department of Defense health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Logan College of Chiropractic and the Samueli Institute have proposed the establishment of a plan to create a new consortial Chiropractic Center for Military Research in Chesterfield, Missouri, on the campus of Logan College; and

WHEREAS, the Center will facilitate development of research capacity in the area of musculoskeletal research, education and training through linkages with researchers and scientists at chiropractic educational institutions with researchers within the Department of Defense and with scientists and researchers at the Samueli Institute; and

WHEREAS, the research program to be pursued by the collaborative consortial Chiropractic Center for Military Research will focus special, initial priority consideration on those musculoskeletal conditions that are affecting those active duty military and veterans participating in or returning from combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, including the role of chiropractic manipulation in the total care of those with amputations and prosthetics:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, urge the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives

to authorize and appropriate full funding required to establish the proposed Chiropractic Center for Military Research at Logan College of Chiropractic at its campus in Chesterfield, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2005, the Missouri General Assembly truly agreed and finally passed Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 539 which modifies Missouri's current state Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, while the bill contains a provision establishing the "Medicaid Reform Commission" to study and review recommendations for reforms of the state Medicaid system, such commission cannot be formed until after the effective date of Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 539, or August 28, 2005; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Missouri for the Medicaid Reform Commission to begin its important task as soon as possible:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Senate of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby immediately establish the "Medicaid Reform Commission" which shall have the task of studying and reviewing recommendations for reforms of the state Medicaid system. The commission shall consist of the following ten members:

(1) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(2) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

No more than three members from each house shall be of the same political party. The directors of the departments of social services, health and senior services, and mental health, or the directors' designees shall serve as ex officio members of the commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall commence after the end of the First Regular Session of the Ninety-third General Assembly, and shall terminate on August 28, 2005. The work of the commission shall be furnished to the Medicaid Reform Commission formed under Section 208.014 as enacted by Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 539, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, including, but not limited to, its clear and concise policy recommendations on reforming, redesigning, and restructuring a new, innovative state Medicaid healthcare delivery system under Title XIX, Public Law 89-97, 1965, amendments to the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 30 et seq.), as amended, to replace the current state Medicaid system under Title XIX, Public Law 89-97, 1965, amendments to the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 30 et seq.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of the member's official duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a chair of the commission shall be selected by the members of the commission and the commission shall meet as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission is authorized to contract with a consultant and the compensation of the consultant and other personnel shall be paid from the joint contingent fund or jointly from the Senate and House contingent funds until an appropriation is made therefor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Directors of the Departments of Social Services, Health and Senior Services, and Mental Health.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17 [SCR 17]

WHEREAS, the cost of a four-year college education increases each year; and

WHEREAS, in response to the ever-increasing cost of a college education, the federal government created Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which authorized states to create federal tax-deferred higher education savings programs; and

WHEREAS, each state has established at least one higher education savings program under the auspices of Section 529; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri established the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program in 1998 to allow parents, grandparents, and any other family members or friends to create tax-deferred higher education savings accounts for a child's future education; and

WHEREAS, in order to encourage Missouri families to invest in the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program, the state authorizes a participant in the program to deduct up to eight thousand dollars in contributions to the program from the participant's adjusted gross income in determining the amount of state income tax owed; and

WHEREAS, there is a disincentive for investment in other states' higher education savings programs since the income tax deduction only applies to investments in Missouri's savings program; and

WHEREAS, parents and families should be afforded every opportunity to invest in the best savings programs, since the goal of higher education savings programs is to increase the amount of money available for a child's higher education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create a Joint Interim Committee on Investments in Higher Education Savings Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint interim committee shall study methods to expand investment opportunities for Missouri parents and families in higher education savings programs, while maintaining the solvency of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program, and make recommendations to the General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint interim committee be authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this state to assist in gathering information pursuant to its objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint interim committee herein established shall consist of ten members, three of which shall be members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, two of which shall be members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, three of which shall be members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and two of which shall be members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research, and the Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee or any subcommittee thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint interim committee shall expire on December 31, 2005, and on that same date deliver a report of findings and recommendations to the General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19 [SCR 19]

WHEREAS, fixing the health care crisis is extremely critical for the citizens of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, changes in the legal, medical, social and economic environments has resulted in a lack of availability or a high cost for medical malpractice coverage for health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the lack of availability and high cost for medical malpractice coverage for health care providers has in turn adversely impacted health care in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, other states have turned to health care stabilization funds as a means of resolving such problems by providing excess medical malpractice coverage to health care providers who participate in the fund; and

WHEREAS, a Missouri Health Care Stabilization Fund would constitute an important step in solving health care problems for Missouri:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create a Joint Interim Committee on a Missouri Health Care Stabilization Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee shall be responsible for:

1. Exploring the establishment of a Missouri Health Care Stabilization Fund to be administered by a health care stabilization board and housed within the Department of Insurance.
2. Investigating the primary objective of assuring health care providers that there will be reasonable medical malpractice liability coverage available within the state of Missouri.
3. Researching the possibility of requiring health care providers to carry primary medical malpractice coverage with another insurer in order to participate in the fund.
4. Investigating the feasibility of the fund paying moneys to an aggrieved party if his or her damages exceed the health care provider's primary level of coverage.
5. Exploring any other ideas as necessary for possible implementation of the fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee be authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this state to assist in gathering information pursuant to its objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee herein established shall consist of ten members, three of which shall be members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, two of which shall be members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and three shall be members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two of which shall be members of the House appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research, and the Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the interim committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee or any subcommittee thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee shall expire on December 31, 2005, and on that same date deliver a report of findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.
