

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact the
2 Lower Health Care Costs Act.

3 WHEREAS, health care costs are a top social concern for the majority of people in
4 the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, up to half of the \$3.5 trillion Americans spent on health care in 2017
6 may have been unnecessary, according to testimony before the Senate health committee
7 from the National Academies; and

8 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act was introduced by Republican
9 Senator Lamar Alexander from Tennessee and cosponsored by Democratic Senator Patty
10 Murray from Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
12 reported the Lower Health Care Costs Act out of committee by a vote of 20 to 3 on June
13 26, 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act contains 55 proposals from 65
15 Senators, 29 of whom are Republican and 36 of whom are Democrats; and

16 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act will end surprise medical bills so
17 people do not receive unexpected bills after hospital visits, which happens 20 percent of
18 the time a person visits a hospital emergency room; and

19 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act contains 12 provisions that will help
20 people know the actual cost of their health care, including ending gag clauses on
21 employers and patients, ending pharmacy benefit manager markups of prescription drugs,
22 banning exclusive contracts between insurance companies and hospitals, creating a secure
23 claims database, requiring patients to be informed of estimated costs of non-emergency
24 health care prior to having a procedure, and requiring that patients receive all hospital
25 bills within 45 days of a procedure; and

26 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act contains several provisions that will
27 lower drug prices, including eliminating loopholes that prohibit small changes in drugs

1 from blocking lower-priced generic drugs from coming to market; ending the abuse of
2 public participation in the drug approval process which can unnecessarily delay drug
3 approval; preventing brands from delaying generics and biosimilars, such as insulin, from
4 coming to market; improving the review process; and educating physicians to make more
5 generics and biosimilars available; and

6 WHEREAS, the Lower Health Care Costs Act extends funding for community
7 health centers and certain other federal health care programs; and

8 WHEREAS, the cost of health care produces great anxiety among many families,
9 forces individuals to delay or forego needed health care services, sometimes results in
10 family bankruptcy, and threatens the future well-being of all citizens of the United States;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
13 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

14 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly hereby urges the United States
15 Congress to enact the Lower Health Care Costs Act to improve access and affordability of
16 health care for all.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this
18 Resolution and notification of its adoption to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
19 United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
20 United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
21 Services, and to each member of Kentucky's delegation to the United States Congress.