

House Joint Resolution 6

Sponsored by Representative GREENLICK, Senator WESTLUND; Senator BATES

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution declaring access to health care as fundamental right of every Oregon resident and directing Legislative Assembly to adopt plan expanding health care coverage.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

PARAGRAPH 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating new sections 46 and 46a to be added to and made a part of Article I, such sections to read:

SECTION 46. (1) Health care is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity and there is an obligation for the state to ensure that every Oregon resident has access to health care as a fundamental right. The Legislative Assembly by law shall adopt a plan that incrementally expands health care coverage so that every Oregon resident is able to obtain effective and affordable health care on a regular basis.

(2) When developing a plan for expanding health care coverage, the Legislative Assembly shall consider ways to:

(a) Conserve and strengthen the existing health care system to the greatest extent possible;

(b) Conserve and strengthen the existing system of providing health insurance as a benefit of employment;

(c) Maximize the use of Medicaid, Medicare and other federal health care programs;

(d) Encourage the efficient and effective use of health care expenditures; and

(e) Improve the health of every Oregon resident.

SECTION 46a. (1) The Legislative Assembly by law shall adopt a plan that incrementally expands health care coverage pursuant to section 46 of this Article not later than July 1, 2009.

(2) This section is repealed December 31, 2012.

PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout this state.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.