



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Research Briefing

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DEMOCRATS PREPARE FOR NEXT PARTISAN VOTE OF FEBRUARY SESSION

House Democrats Pushed Same Constitutional Mandate in 2007, but Measure Died in Senate

“There will be discussions on how to bring us together in a way as the resolution proposes in a way that addresses the pressing issues and does not turn such a session into a theater leading to the elections in 2008.” (Speaker Jeff Merkley, SCR 1 debate, 01/17/07)

Democrats to Send HJR 100 to House Floor Today or Tomorrow

Over the next three days, Democrats on the House Health Care Committee will likely vote to send HJR 100 to the House Floor. HJR 100 is yet another constitutional mandate making health care a “fundamental right,” and requiring state government to provide health care for everyone.

HJR 100 is nearly identical to HJR 18 from the 2007 session. HJR 18 passed the House of Representatives on June 15, 2007 on a partisan vote of 32-27. The measure never received a hearing in the Senate, and died in the Senate Rules Committee.

House/Senate Democrat Leadership Strike ‘Deal’ to Revive Partisan Issue in 2008

“A deal was struck with the Senate President and the Speaker that we would consider this during the ’08 session.” (Rep. Mitch Greenlick D-Portland, House Health Care Committee, Hearing on HJR 100, 1/8/2008)

“When I went to the leadership of the Senate and urged them to move [HJR 18] out, they said they would rather deal with it in the February session.....after a series of negotiations between the House and the Senate leadership there was an agreement that we’d address it during the February session.” (Rep. Mitch Greenlick D-Portland, House Health Care Committee, Hearing on HJR 100, 1/25/2008)

Republicans on House Health Care Committee Object to Election-Year Politicking

“It was my understanding that we were going to attempt, as best as possible, to not address clearly black and white partisan issues.....we were not going to address ‘electioneering issues’ in an election year.” (Rep. Scott Bruun, R-West Linn, House Health Care Committee, Hearing on HJR 100, 1/8/2008)

“This bill is not without its complexities, certainly not without controversy, and as the vote will likely come out today, not a consensus piece....the process of bringing this to the ’08 session, which I feel by its very nature, hijacks the process of what is supposed to be going into this session.” (Rep. Linda Flores, R-Clackamas, House Health Care Committee, Hearing on HJR

100, 1/8/2008)