

No. R-400. Joint resolution urging Congress not to pursue legislation allowing individuals or small groups to purchase health insurance across state lines or permitting health insurance companies to offer individual or small group health insurance policies to residents of a state if the company is not authorized by that state to offer those policies.

(J.R.H.39)

Offered by: Representatives Poirier of Barre City, Bray of New Haven, Martin of Springfield, O'Brien of Richmond, Spengler of Colchester, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho and Wizowaty of Burlington

Whereas, Vermont law has required guaranteed issue of health insurance policies in the small group and individual markets since 1992, which means that an insurer cannot reject a Vermont resident's application for health insurance based on the individual's health status or medical conditions, and

Whereas, Vermont law has required community rating in the small group and individual markets since 1992, and

Whereas, most other states do not require guaranteed issue, community rating, or other consumer protections afforded to Vermont residents by law, and

Whereas, allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines will likely result in many healthy people purchasing insurance out of state where their policies may be rescinded if they become sick, leading them to purchase guaranteed-issue health insurance policies in Vermont, which would create a very sick Vermont risk pool that would be expensive to insure and would increase the cost of health insurance in Vermont, and

Whereas, Vermont has had mental health parity laws in place since 1997 which provide greater protections than federal and many state laws, and

Whereas, out-of-state insurers are already authorized to sell policies in Vermont and across the United States but some have chosen not to offer health insurance in Vermont's small group and individual health insurance markets because of the requirements of guaranteed issue and community rating, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress not to pursue legislation allowing individuals or small groups to purchase health insurance across state lines or permitting health insurance companies to offer individual or small group health insurance policies to residents of a state if the company is not authorized by that state to offer those policies, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.