

**Senator Daniel Hemmert** proposes the following substitute bill:

**HEALTH CARE FREEDOM CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel Hemmert**

House Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution encourages the federal government to ~~H→ [give states greater control over Medicaid policies by providing Medicaid funding in the form of a federal block grant.]~~ **work with states to plan and implement state-tailored, innovative Medicaid programs that maximize states' flexibility and choice.** ←H

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ asserts that Utah is best suited to make decisions regarding Medicaid policy for the residents of this state, including prioritizing state Medicaid spending to reflect the unique needs of Utah and setting eligibility standards that reflect state priorities; and

▶ calls upon the federal government to ~~H→ [provide Medicaid funding through a federal block grant that would give states greater flexibility to manage the state Medicaid budget and tailor the program to meet state objectives.]~~ **work with states to plan and implement state-tailored, innovative Medicaid programs that maximize states' flexibility and choice.** ←H

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the American governing principles of self government and federalism require that states, municipalities, and the private sector be empowered to pursue



57 accompanying loss of federal funding;

58 WHEREAS, welfare reform changed the way states managed welfare programs by  
59 giving states performance expectations, more policy control, and a set amount of money each  
60 year;

61 WHEREAS, because welfare reform has proven to be a success since its passage more  
62 than 20 years ago, states should ask for a similar arrangement with Medicaid that would give  
63 states more policy flexibility, a set state funding amount, and broad performance goals; and

64 WHEREAS, federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is  
65 allocated to states based on a matching rate up to a total set amount of federal funding  
66 determined by state need, providing clear precedent for giving states greater latitude in setting  
67 eligibility standards and a set amount of funding for similar programs:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
69 Governor concurring therein, maintains that Utah is best suited to make decisions regarding  
70 Medicaid policy for the residents of this state, including prioritizing state Medicaid spending to  
71 reflect the unique needs of Utah and setting eligibility standards that reflect state priorities.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call upon the  
73 federal government ~~to provide Medicaid funding through a federal block grant, including a per~~  
74 ~~capita allocation, and work with states to redesign the Medicaid program to give states greater~~  
75 ~~flexibility to manage the state Medicaid budget and tailor the program to meet state objectives.] to~~  
75a work with states to plan and implement state-tailored, innovative Medicaid programs, through  
75b means such as a federal block grant or a per capita allocation, that maximize states' flexibility  
75c and choice. ←H

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Utah's  
77 congressional delegation, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States  
78 House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the Secretary of  
79 the United States Department of Health and Human Services.