

Senator Gregory S. Bell proposes the following substitute bill:

**RESOLUTION URGING STATES RIGHTS TO  
INNOVATE HEALTH CARE**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gregory S. Bell**

House Sponsor: Kory M. Holdaway

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the United States Congress to pass “The Health Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act” during the current congressional session.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the United States Congress to consider and pass “The Health Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act” during the current congressional session; and
- ▶ urges the members of Utah’s congressional delegation to cosponsor and actively pursue passage of this legislation.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution reserves to the states powers not delegated to the federal government;

WHEREAS, health policy powers are not delegated to the federal government by the



26 United States Constitution;

27 WHEREAS, Congress has enacted laws and budgets which substantially restrict the  
28 states from setting effective health policy;

29 WHEREAS, federal health policy leaves more than 46 million Americans, including  
30 400,000 Utahns, without health insurance;

31 WHEREAS, numerous states have been actively searching for appropriate solutions to  
32 the problem to meet the specific and highly individualized needs of their particular state;

33 WHEREAS, the vast majority of uninsured Utahns are either employed, or dependent  
34 upon someone who is employed, and are therefore paying taxes which support federal, state,  
35 and local health programs;

36 WHEREAS, the increase in Utah's uninsured rate was for greater than the increase in  
37 the national rate during 2004-05, much of this owing to the fact that Utah's economy is  
38 dominated by small businesses;

39 WHEREAS, health care costs consume approximately 16.5 % of the gross domestic  
40 product, up from 5% in 1960 and 9% in the 1980s;

41 WHEREAS, tax revenues make up the majority of the budget for health care in the  
42 United States, which at more than \$6,300 per person in 2004, substantially exceeds any other  
43 nation's health care expenses;

44 WHEREAS, businesses in the United States are facing runaway inflation in health care  
45 costs, currently 7.7 % annually, with the inflation rate consistently in excess of three times the  
46 core inflation rate;

47 WHEREAS, between 2000-04 Utah businesses saw premium increases that were five  
48 times the increase in earnings;

49 WHEREAS, to compete in a global economic environment, Utah's businesses will need  
50 a dependably healthy workforce at a controllable cost;

51 WHEREAS, the current health care delivery system in the United States and in Utah is  
52 highly inefficient;

53 WHEREAS, Congress has not been able or willing to pass effective health policy  
54 legislation;

55 WHEREAS, states, given relief from the burden of unnecessary federal health  
56 regulation while retaining present federal health funding, could effectively organize needed

57 health services for all residents;

58 WHEREAS, Utah has unique advantages with respect to demographics, healthy and  
59 active lifestyles, and health care delivery systems that lend themselves to a state-based health  
60 care financing solution; and

61 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the 110th Congress entitled "The Health  
62 Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act" and is expected to be reintroduced in the near  
63 future:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
65 Governor concurring therein, urge the United States Congress to pass "The Health Partnership  
66 Through Creative Federalism Act" during the current congressional session.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the  
68 members of Utah's congressional delegation to cosponsor and actively pursue passage of this  
69 legislation.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
71 the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
72 States House of Representatives, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

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**Fiscal Note****S.C.R. 6 1st Sub. (Green) - Resolution Urging States Rights to Innovate  
Health Care**

2007 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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