

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

WHEREAS, public and teaching hospitals in Missouri serve as an integral part of the safety net system in this state. Major teaching hospitals account for approximately twenty-five percent of all Medicaid discharges; and

WHEREAS, currently there are thirty-three teaching hospitals and mental health centers in Missouri receiving graduate medical education funds. Such funding is used to train cardiologists, oncologists, neurologists, pediatricians, and numerous other types of physicians; and

WHEREAS, such hospitals are recognized for offering the most advanced and state-of-the-art services. Therefore, such training for the future health care workforce is an important and critical policy objective for this state; and

WHEREAS, such public and teaching hospitals are concerned about proposed regulations from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services asserting that the federal Medicaid program lacks statutory authority to match payments for direct graduate medical education and activities. Such a rule change represents a significant reversal of long-standing Medicaid policy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri will annually lose between 65 and 70 million dollars in lost federal funding starting May 25, 2008, should the rule take effect; and

WHEREAS, Truman Medical Center, in particular, is concerned that the proposed regulations would narrow the definition of "public" so that many current public hospitals, including Truman Medical Center, would no longer qualify as public for purposes of providing the local match required to obtain federal Medicaid funds. Initial estimates of the impact to Truman Medical Center is that it would exceed \$37 million in lost Medicaid funding; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative Engel has introduced HR 3533, the Public and Teaching Hospital Preservation Act, in the House of Representatives extending the proposed rule by one year until May 25, 2009, prohibiting implementation of the proposed rule on Medicaid match for direct graduate medical education:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby request that the Missouri Congressional delegation ask the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to withdraw this rule or delay implementation until May 25, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution to each member of Missouri's Congressional delegation and to the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.