

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 303

WHEREAS, Missouri currently ranks 38th in the nation in terms of the health status of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, our challenge to create a better Missouri must include improvement of our health systems so that Missourians can lead healthier, longer, and more productive lives; and

WHEREAS, to meet this challenge, we must have a long-term strategy and plan for bringing more people into health coverage; and

WHEREAS, placing the burden upon Missouri businesses to bear the cost of providing insurance to their employees as well as paying the costs of the uninsured through their premium payments is not a long-term strategy for furthering the health of our citizens and increasing the economic vitality of our state; and

WHEREAS, the state needs to develop a long-term strategy and plan for controlling the soaring cost of health care while also moving our state's more than 700,000 uninsured into coverage; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Missouri Senate are a dedicated group of individuals who should lead in developing this long-term strategy and plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby create the Missouri Senate Healthy Missourians 2020 Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be responsible for developing a long-term strategy and plan to provide health insurance coverage for citizens of this state that do not currently have access, or cannot afford such coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall study the development of a rational health care system in our state that engages employers, hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, and the federal government to find ways to blend funding streams and create market incentives for participation in the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson for the Committee who shall serve during the pendency of the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority of the Committee shall terminate on December 31, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this state to assist in gathering information pursuant to its objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of Senate Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Committee.