

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1618

By Senator Steineger

2-14

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9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Congress to allow  
10 states greater flexibility in the use of federal health care funding.

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12 WHEREAS, Our Founding Fathers recognized the necessity of state  
13 sovereignty, therefore America was founded on the republican beliefs that  
14 the States are intended to have authority and power to enable them to  
15 ensure the well being of their citizens; and the state legislatures and gov-  
16 ernors are best suited to understand where the areas of greatest needs in  
17 terms of health care exist and to assure health care coverage is available  
18 for their citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, In the current system, health care costs are increasingly  
20 rising beyond many citizens' ability to afford even the most basic of health  
21 care services, with more than 47 million uninsured Americans; more than  
22 280,000 of them Kansas citizens; and the United States spends more than  
23 15% of gross domestic product on health care; approximately \$6,400 per  
24 capita, a cost 50% higher than any other industrialized country; and

25 WHEREAS, Congress has delegated much authority and power to the  
26 States with regard to social welfare programs under the landmark 1995  
27 welfare reform initiative whereby a myriad of federal government pro-  
28 grams were consolidated and given to the states in form of block grants;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Congress appropriates approximately \$3.5 billion to the  
31 State of Kansas for health care related programs and research, including,  
32 but not limited to, Medicaid, Medicare, the Employee Retirements In-  
33 come Security Act and the State Children's Health Insurance Program;  
34 Now, therefore,

35 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*  
36 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the State of Kansas urges the United  
37 States Congress to grant all necessary waivers and exemptions from the  
38 use of funding for Medicaid, Medicare, the Employee Retirements In-  
39 come Security Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program and  
40 any other relevant federal law to effect the transfer of the \$3.5 billion  
41 provided to Kansas in the form of one annual block grant for purposes of  
42 providing health care to the citizens of Kansas; and

43 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to

1 send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United  
2 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
3 United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United  
4 States Department of Health and Human Services and to each member  
5 of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.