

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to reject the proposal to remove the states' authority to designate a hospital as a necessary provider under the critical access hospital program.

WHEREAS, the critical access hospital program was passed into law by Congress in 1997 to preserve the viability of more than twelve hundred rural hospitals in the country; and

WHEREAS, thirty-eight of South Dakota's fifty-two community-based hospitals are critical access hospitals, and their financial existence depends on their continued participation in the critical access hospital program; and

WHEREAS, until 2006, states could declare certain hospitals exempt from certain distance requirements attributed to the critical access hospital program, and South Dakota's Governor was provided with the ability to designate a hospital as a necessary provider under the critical access hospital program; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Health and Human Services has proposed that Congress pass revisions to the critical access hospital program that would render the states' necessary provider designation null and void, and as many as twenty-one critical access hospitals in South Dakota could lose their critical access hospital status if the necessary provider designations are eliminated:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature express its support for maintaining the states' ability to designate a hospital as a necessary provider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature petition Congress to reject the proposal of the Office of the Inspector General and maintain the states' designation process.

Adopted by the Senate,  
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

February 6, 2014  
February 10, 2014

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Matt Michels  
President of the Senate

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Jeannette Schipper  
Secretary of the Senate

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Brian Gosch  
Speaker of the House

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Arlene Kvislen  
Chief Clerk of the House