

House Resolution 226

By: Representatives Mayo of the 84th, Mitchell of the 88th, Marin of the 96th, Gordon of the 163rd, Drenner of the 85th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recommending that the General Assembly close the health coverage gap for Georgia
2 families; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, many of the parents we serve are among the 300,000 Georgians left in the
4 coverage gap; and

5 WHEREAS, the gap exists because Georgia has not yet taken the opportunity offered by the
6 Affordable Care Act to extend Medicaid coverage to adults under age 65 with incomes below
7 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

8 WHEREAS, people who have become eligible for coverage in states that have already closed
9 the gap have been better able to get timely medical services and avoid medical debt, and
10 many have sought out the preventive care they need; and

11 WHEREAS, federal funds are already set aside to pay almost all of the cost, 100 percent
12 through 2016, phasing down to 90 percent in 2020 and beyond. Georgians are paying federal
13 taxes for this but are not receiving the benefit; and

14 WHEREAS, the billions of federal dollars Georgia receives by closing the gap will create
15 or sustain tens of thousands of jobs in our state, the majority of them in areas outside of the
16 Atlanta region; and

17 WHEREAS, the economic shot-in-the-arm will generate revenues to help pay for Georgia's
18 share of the cost, and rural hospitals now in danger of closing will have a better chance to
19 survive; and

20 WHEREAS, the state can also expect savings of state dollars we now spend for things such
21 as behavioral health services and hospital care for prisoners to help offset our share; and

22 WHEREAS, ensuring all Georgians have health coverage makes it more feasible to set and
23 meet public health goals to reduce smoking, obesity, heart disease, cancer deaths, and days
24 lost due to behavioral health issues or depression; and

25 WHEREAS, closing the health coverage gap could give a major boost to Georgia's
26 exemplary initiative of diverting offenders to accountability courts by paying for the
27 behavioral health and addictive disease treatment that participants need to succeed.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recommend that the General Assembly close the health coverage
30 gap for Georgia families.