

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 222**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15, 2016

Sponsored by:

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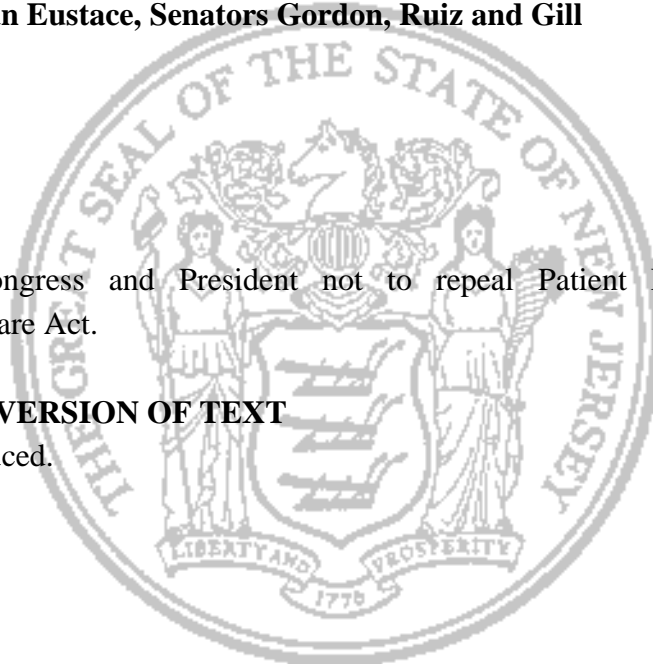
Assemblyman Eustace, Senators Gordon, Ruiz and Gill

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress and President not to repeal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2016)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Congress and President of
2 the United States not to repeal the Patient Protection and
3 Affordable Care Act.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
6 (ACA), also commonly known as “Obamacare,” was passed by
7 Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The ACA established a comprehensive series of health
9 insurance reforms designed to make universal, affordable health
10 coverage available to all Americans, while at the same time
11 controlling rising health care costs and ending certain common
12 industry practices that limited access to health coverage; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Specifically, the ACA expanded access to health insurance
14 coverage by creating transparent health insurance marketplaces,
15 allowing children to stay on their parents’ health plans until the age
16 of 26, expanding Medicaid, and establishing a system of tax credits
17 and penalties designed to both encourage consumers to purchase
18 individual coverage and incentivize businesses to provide coverage
19 to their employees; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, the ACA prohibits insurers from denying
21 coverage on the basis of a pre-existing condition, prohibits insurers
22 from rescinding coverage, eliminates lifetime and annual limits on
23 coverage, requires all marketplace plans to provide coverage for 10
24 essential health benefits, including preventative care, established a
25 mechanism for consumers to appeal coverage determinations, and
26 established a system of navigators to assist consumers in navigating
27 the health insurance marketplace; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The ACA additionally provides incentives to expand the
29 number of primary care providers and encourage them to serve in
30 medically underserved areas, promotes alternative payment
31 methodologies designed to improve the value of care, and works to
32 link patients with community based resources and other services
33 designed to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and inappropriate
34 emergency department use; and

35 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the ACA helped reduce the uninsured rate
36 to 8.7 percent, representing a 34 percent decrease in the uninsured
37 population from 1.16 million in 2013 to 771,000 in 2015; and

38 **WHEREAS**, In particular, approximately 480,000 new enrollees
39 obtained health coverage in New Jersey through the Medicaid
40 expansion alone, and approximately 24,000 additional health care
41 jobs were added in efforts to expand the primary care network; and

42 **WHEREAS**, A number of national leaders have proposed repealing the
43 ACA in the coming Congressional session. Most plans for repeal
44 do not include any concrete or detailed proposals to replace the
45 ACA or otherwise identify which aspects of the ACA, if any, would
46 be preserved, modified, or replaced; and

47 **WHEREAS**, It has been estimated that repealing the Medicaid
48 expansion alone would result in approximately 528,000 adults in

1 New Jersey, or approximately 10 percent of the State's adult
2 population, losing coverage. This estimate includes both those who
3 became newly eligible for Medicaid under the ACA expansion and
4 those who were covered prior to the enactment of the ACA under
5 waivers that have since expired; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Nearly two thirds of those at risk of losing Medicaid
7 coverage following a repeal of the ACA are either active in the
8 workforce or live in a working household, but have a household
9 income that makes health insurance unaffordable without
10 assistance; in many cases, access to health coverage is essential to
11 keeping the working members of the household in the workforce;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, It is further estimated that the Medicaid repeal alone could
14 cause New Jersey to lose approximately \$3 billion in federal funds
15 in each year following repeal and an additional \$4.1 billion in lost
16 economic activity and jobs, particularly in the health care industry;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, Federal funds made available under the ACA supplanted
19 State funds being used to provide health care benefits to State
20 residents; given the State's current financial circumstances, it will
21 be difficult to replace these federal funds if lost due to repeal of the
22 ACA; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Repealing the ACA will likely reverse both the positive
24 reductions in use of hospital emergency departments for primary
25 care and the positive reductions in incidents of unnecessary
26 hospitalization that were achieved through the use of expanded
27 primary care and community resources; an uptick in inappropriate
28 hospital use will likely undermine the financial stability of hospitals
29 while driving up the overall cost of health care in the State; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Repealing the ACA without establishing mechanisms to
31 preserve the significant improvements realized by the law, and
32 without adequately providing for those who stand to lose their
33 health coverage upon repeal, will have significant detrimental
34 effects on individuals and their families, on the health care industry
35 in general, and on the overall economic well-being of both New
36 Jersey and the nation as a whole; now, therefore,

37
38 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
39 Jersey (the Senate concurring):
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41 1. The Congress and President of the United States are
42 respectfully urged not to repeal the Patient Protection and
43 Affordable Care Act, and to ensure that any revisions or
44 modifications to the law adequately maintain continuing health
45 coverage for those individuals who would otherwise lose their
46 health benefits upon repeal and preserve the significant gains that
47 have been realized through the law in the years following its
48 enactment.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
3 Secretary of the Senate to the President, to the Speaker of the House
4 of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to
5 each member of Congress elected from New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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10 This resolution respectfully urges the Congress and President of
11 the United States not to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable
12 Care Act (ACA), which is also known as “Obamacare,” and to
13 ensure that any revisions or modifications to the law adequately
14 provide continuing health coverage for those individuals who stand
15 to lose their benefits upon repeal and preserve the improvements
16 realized through the law in the years following its enactment.

17 Enacted in 2010, the ACA made significant progress in reducing
18 the number of people without health insurance, implemented certain
19 reforms to the insurance industry, established programs to expand
20 the availability of primary care, reduced unnecessary
21 hospitalizations and inappropriate use of hospital emergency
22 departments, and established programs and incentives to improve
23 overall quality and efficiency throughout the health care industry.

24 A number of national figures have proposed repealing the ACA,
25 and there are few, if any, proposals that set forth in specific detail
26 how the ACA would be modified or replaced following repeal. Is it
27 estimated that a complete repeal of the ACA will have a significant
28 detrimental impact on the citizens of New Jersey, including lost
29 health coverage for over half a million residents, billions of dollars
30 in lost federal funding, lost jobs and reduced economic activity, and
31 increased strains on hospital resources. This is only a partial list of
32 the likely social and economic implications of a full repeal of the
33 ACA.

34 It is incumbent on national leaders to undertake any efforts to
35 modify or replace the ACA in a rational, measured, thoughtful way
36 that adequately addresses any flaws or imperfections in the current
37 law while protecting and preserving the most beneficial parts of the
38 law, including making affordable, comprehensive health coverage
39 universally available, improving quality, value, and outcomes in the
40 provision of health care, eliminating insurance industry practices
41 that limited the availability of quality coverage, expanding access to
42 primary care, and restricting the steady rise in health care costs.