

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 11

By: Monson, Aldridge, Branan,
Brogdon, Cain, Capps, Coates,
Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield,
Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher,
Ford, Gumm, Harrison, Helton,
Hobson, Horner, Johnson, Kerr,
Laster, Laughlin, Lawler,
Leftwich, Littlefield, Maddox,
Milacek, Morgan, Myers,
Nichols, Price, Pruitt, Rabon,
Reynolds, Riley, Robinson,
Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder,
Stipe, Taylor, Wilcoxson,
Wilkerson, Williams and
Williamson of the Senate

and

Leist of the House

A Concurrent Resolution designating March 10-16,
2003, "Cover the Uninsured Week" in the State of
Oklahoma; encouraging widespread participation; and
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the crisis of the uninsured is one of America's
greatest health care challenges. The U.S. Census Bureau reports
that there are 41 million Americans who are uninsured and more than
eight million of them are children. Nearly eight out of ten
uninsured people are in working families. The issue affects not
only the uninsured themselves, but also our nation's health care
system, economy, and communities. In Oklahoma approximately 638,000
people, or almost 19% of the population, are uninsured. Of these,
143,300 are children; and

WHEREAS, most people who are uninsured work, but cannot afford
health insurance. Almost three-fourths of working-age, uninsured
Americans work. Nineteen million work full time and five million
work part time. These individuals are most likely to be self-
employed, contractors, part-time workers, employees of small firms,
and employees in service-oriented professions. Employed people who

lack health insurance coverage either work for businesses that do not offer health benefits or cannot afford the benefits that are offered to them. A sluggish economy, higher unemployment, and rising health care costs mean that more Americans are becoming uninsured. The number of Americans who get health insurance through their jobs decreased last year, while the number relying on government coverage increased. Over 400,000 uninsured Oklahomans work full time while nearly 90,000 more uninsured Oklahomans work part-time; and

WHEREAS, in a study of more than 28,000 patients, those without health insurance were more likely to be diagnosed with skin, colorectal, prostate, and other cancers at a later, more dangerous stage than those with health insurance. All of those cancers can be detected earlier through regular screening – an option usually unaffordable for the uninsured. Women with breast cancer, for example, are 49% more likely to die if they are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, "Cover the Uninsured Week" will feature hundreds of grassroots events in communities across the United States. In Oklahoma there will be a Capitol Kick-Off on March 10; on-campus activities on March 11; county health and enrollment fairs on March 12; a statewide business and labor roundtable on March 13; town hall meetings across Oklahoma on March 14; and interfaith activities and additional activities on March 15 and 16, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature designates March 10 through March 16, 2003, "Cover the Uninsured Week" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages widespread participation in the many educational events that comprise "Cover the Uninsured Week".

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Health Improvement Partnership, a broad public-private coalition of organizations, state agencies, and community service providers throughout the State of Oklahoma.

Adopted by the Senate the 10th day of March, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2003.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives