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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, During the 92nd General Assembly, legislation was passed that provided for coverage of charges incurred for anesthetics provided in conjunction with dental care in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center; restrictions in the legislation require (i) that the individual be a child 6 year of age or under, (ii) that the individual have a medical condition that requires hospitalization for general anesthesia for dental care, or (iii) that the individual be disabled; and

WHEREAS, It is far more cost effective and just as safe to do the dental work in a dental office; in addition, performing the dental work in a dental office will increase access for this restricted group of needy individuals; and

WHEREAS, 80% of dentists do not have hospital privileges; and

WHEREAS, More cost effective pharmacologic methods of patient management are currently not reimbursable, such as oral sedation, IV sedation, or use of an office based anesthesiologist; and

WHEREAS, Special needs patients, such as autistic patients, do not respond well to "new" environments; and

WHEREAS, Hospital operating rooms are less efficient and effective environments for the delivery of dental care as compared to a dedicated dental facility; and

WHEREAS, The available dental equipment in many hospitals is either limited or non-existent; and

WHEREAS, Many hospitals restrict the use of dental auxiliaries in the operating room, including dental assistants

1 and hygienists; and

2 WHEREAS, Office-based dental treatment will "main stream"
3 special needs individuals and results in lower patient stress
4 and anxiety; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the greater cost effectiveness of
6 office-based care, more frequent oral evaluations with earlier
7 detection of oral disease is possible for special needs
8 patients; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we urge the Division of Insurance of the Department of
12 Financial and Professional Regulation to complete a study on
13 the cost benefits of requiring accident and health insurance
14 policies to cover charges incurred and anesthesia provided in
15 conjunction with dental care that is provided to children and
16 disabled individuals in a dental office as well as a hospital
17 or ambulatory surgical treatment center; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study and its findings be reported back
19 to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2006; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 delivered to the Director of the Division of Insurance of the
23 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the
24 Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation.