



HJ0042

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois, as part of the effort to  
3 reduce Medicaid costs, eliminated adult dental services with  
4 the exception of emergency extractions; and

5 WHEREAS, This was done due to the fact that adult dental  
6 services are considered "optional services" under the federal  
7 reimbursement guidelines; and

8 WHEREAS, Much or all of the savings in the dental  
9 appropriation would be offset due to increased State spending  
10 for those patients who present to hospital emergency rooms  
11 seeking pain relief; and

12 WHEREAS, Most emergency rooms are only able to provide pain  
13 medications and antibiotics, which only temporally address the  
14 condition; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pew Center issued a report on February 28,  
16 2012 that documented a 15.8% increase in emergency room visits  
17 from 2006 to 2009 in states that reduced or eliminated adult  
18 dental care programs; and

19 WHEREAS, Pew's report also cited a study published in  
20 Pediatric Dentistry, stating that treating these problems in an

1 emergency room costs \$6,498 per visit, compared with \$660 per  
2 visit in a dentist's office; and

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is prepared to add over a  
4 half a million more adults to as part of the Medicaid expansion  
5 provisions of the Affordable Care Act; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
8 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Adult Dental Safety Net Task  
9 Force is created to study the impact of these cuts on the  
10 ability of adults covered by Medicaid to receive care for  
11 dental conditions without being forced to go to the hospital  
12 emergency room for care; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of 2 members of  
14 the House of Representative appointed by the Speaker of the  
15 House, one of whom shall serve as co-chair; 2 members of the  
16 House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of  
17 the House; 2 members of the Senate appointed by the President  
18 of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as co-chair; 2 members  
19 of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;  
20 and 2 members appointed by the Governor; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That 2 members from the Illinois State Dental  
22 Society, one from Cook County and one from a rural downstate

1 county, one member from the Primary Health Care Association,  
2 one member from the Illinois Public Health Association, one  
3 member from the Health Care Council of Illinois, and one member  
4 from ARC of Illinois shall be appointed by the co-chairs to the  
5 Task Force; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Department of Healthcare and Family  
7 Services shall provide all necessary support to the Task Force;  
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings to  
10 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 1,  
11 2014.