COMMITTEE REPORT

March 20, 2014

**S. 1077**

Introduced by Senators Hembree, Verdin, Cromer, Bennett, Cleary, Thurmond, Massey, Hayes, Shealy, Grooms, Young, Fair, Campbell, Courson, Davis, L. Martin, Alexander, Gregory, Turner and Peeler

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Read the first time March 4, 2014.

**THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Concurrent Resolution (S. 1077) to memorialize the United States Congress to enact the State Health Care Choice Act, Senate Bill 1711, to ensure that the State of South Carolina and all states, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

Majority favorable. Minority unfavorable.

HARVEY S. PEELER, JR. C. BRADLEY HUTTO

For Majority. For Minority.

**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE STATE HEALTH CARE CHOICE ACT, SENATE BILL 1711, TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ALL STATES HAVE THE OPTION TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT STATE LAWS RELATING TO HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND HEALTH INSURANCE THAT WERE IN EFFECT PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

Whereas, the State Health Care Choice Act authorizes a state to limit the application of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

Whereas, the act authorizes a state to enact a law that: (1) expresses the intent of the state to opt out of one or more of the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (2) contains a list of the provisions that will not apply to the state, and (3) either expresses the state's intent to continue to administer health coverage related laws as in effect in the state on March 23, 2010, or provides for the implementation of related state laws enacted after such date; and

Whereas, the act sets forth provisions that may be made inapplicable within a state, including provisions related to health coverage, essential health benefits, health insurance exchanges, alternative health plans established by states, individual and employer health coverage requirements, interoperable protocols for enrollment in federal and state health and human service programs, and expansion of Medicaid coverage; and

Whereas, the current administration has delayed the employer mandate and if the mandate can be delayed for large businesses, American families deserve the same treatment; and

Whereas, states are publishing the rates that consumers will have to pay because of the health care law. These rates will force thousands of families to pay significantly more in health insurance premiums. States should be given the option to lower insurance premiums for their citizens; and

Whereas, the economy remains uncertain because businesses are fearful about the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The State Health Care Choice Act allows states to make health care policy decisions that are tailored to the best interests of the citizens of the individual states, and provides certainty to the business community, resulting in economic stability and growth. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly memorialize Congress to enact the State Health Care Choice Act, Senate Bill 1711, to ensure that the State of South Carolina and all states have the option to continue to implement state laws relating to health care delivery and health insurance that were in effect prior to the date of enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.

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