

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1997 Regular Session
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By: Delegates Grosfeld and Hurson

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Appropriations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Restoration of Federal Support for Vulnerable Populations**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President and Congress of the United States to restore
4 federal funding for legal immigrants and certain children and adults declared
5 ineligible for temporary cash assistance, food stamps, medical assistance, and
6 supplemental security income under the Personal Responsibility and Work Act of
7 1996; and generally relating to requesting the restoration of certain federal support
8 and benefits to certain populations of individuals in the United States.

9 WHEREAS, 6,327 legal immigrants with permanent residence status in Maryland
10 will lose eligibility for federal Supplemental Security Income assistance beginning July 1,
11 1997; and

12 WHEREAS, 8,098 adult legal immigrants in Maryland will lose eligibility for food
13 stamps during fiscal year 1997; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 8,300 legal immigrants entering Maryland after August
15 22, 1996, will be ineligible for medical assistance coverage; and

16 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding Maryland's application for waiver from this
17 requirement, adults ages 18 to 50 years previously eligible for food stamps will receive
18 food stamps for only 3 months in 36 months unless working or engaged in a work activity,
19 costing Maryland \$240 million in federal funds over the next five years; and

20 WHEREAS, The federal welfare reform law alters the eligibility for children with
21 disabilities for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, removing an estimated
22 2,400 Maryland children from income support beginning July 1, 1997; and

23 WHEREAS, Approximately 15 percent of disabled children in Maryland who lose
24 SSI eligibility will also lose necessary medical coverage; and

25 WHEREAS, The SSI Childhood program enables disabled children to remain in
26 their homes and communities without the need for institutionalization; and

27 WHEREAS, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996
28 counts education as a work activity for only 20 percent of a state's welfare population,
29 including teenagers; and

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1 WHEREAS, Statistics demonstrate that welfare recipients with a GED or high
2 school diploma have better opportunities to obtain long-term employment than recipients
3 without a secondary education; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
5 President of the United States and Congress of the United States are respectfully urged:

6 (1) To fully restore federal support for food stamps, medical assistance,
7 temporary cash assistance, and supplemental security income for all legal immigrants in
8 the United States;

9 (2) To fully restore federal food stamp support for eligible adults between
10 the ages of 18 and 50;

11 (3) Fully restore eligibility to disabled children removed for Supplemental
12 Security Income (SSI) children's program under the Personal Responsibility and Work
13 Opportunity Act of 1996; and

14 (4) To expand the percentage of welfare recipients who may undertake
15 educational activities and extend the time limit beyond 1 year for education under the
16 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
18 Legislative Reference to the President of the United States; the Presiding Officer of both
19 branches of the United States Congress; the Maryland Congressional Delegation:
20 Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington,
21 D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L.
22 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings,
23 and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.