

Reps. McMillin, Knollenberg, Caul, Crawford, Genetski, Horn, Kurtz, Lund, Opsommer, Hansen and Kowall offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 148.

A resolution to memorialize the United States Congress to oppose a national health care plan, based on compelling health facts and statistics as reported by the Hoover Institute.

Whereas, Americans have better survival rates than Europeans for common cancers. Breast cancer mortality is 52 percent higher in Germany than in the United States and 88 percent higher in the United Kingdom. Prostate cancer mortality is 60.4 percent higher in the United Kingdom and 45.7 percent higher in Norway. The mortality rate for colorectal cancer among British men and women is about 40 percent higher; and

Whereas, Americans have lower cancer mortality rates than Canadians. Breast cancer mortality in Canada is 9 percent higher than in the United States, prostate cancer is 18.4 percent higher, and colon cancer among men is about 10 percent higher; and

Whereas, Americans have better access to treatment for chronic diseases than patients in other developed countries. Some 56 percent of Americans who could benefit from statin drugs, which reduce cholesterol and protect against heart disease, are taking them. By comparison, of those patients who could benefit from these drugs, only 36 percent of the Dutch, 29 percent of the Swiss, 26 percent of Germans, 23 percent of Britons, and 17 percent of Italians receive them; and

Whereas, Americans have better access to preventive cancer screening than Canadians. Take the proportion of the appropriate-age population groups who have received recommended tests for breast, cervical, prostate, and colon cancer: Nine out of ten middle-aged American women (89 percent) have had a mammogram, compared to fewer than three-fourths of Canadians (72 percent). Nearly all American women (96 percent) have had a Pap smear, compared to fewer than 90 percent of Canadians. More than half of American men (54 percent) have had a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test, compared to fewer than one in six Canadians (16 percent). Nearly one-third of Americans (30 percent) have had a colonoscopy, compared with fewer than one in twenty Canadians (5 percent); and

Whereas, Lower-income Americans are in better health than comparable Canadians. Twice as many American seniors with below-median incomes self-report "excellent" health (11.7 percent) compared to Canadian seniors (5.8 percent). Conversely, white, young Canadian adults with below-median incomes are 20 percent more likely than lower-income Americans to describe their health as "fair or poor"; and

Whereas, Americans spend less time waiting for care than patients in Canada and the United Kingdom. Canadian and British patients wait about twice as long--sometimes more than a year--to see a specialist, have elective surgery such as hip replacements, or get radiation treatment for cancer. All told, 827,429 people are waiting for some type of procedure in Canada. In Britain, nearly 1.8 million people are waiting for a hospital admission or outpatient treatment; and

Whereas, People in countries with more government control of health care are highly dissatisfied and believe reform is needed. More than 70 percent of German, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and British adults say their health system needs either "fundamental change" or "complete rebuilding"; and

Whereas, Americans are more satisfied with the care they receive than Canadians. When asked about their own health care instead of the "health care system," more than half of Americans (51.3 percent) are very satisfied with their health care services, compared with only 41.5 percent of Canadians. Additionally, a lower proportion of Americans are dissatisfied (6.8 percent) than Canadians (8.5 percent); and

Whereas, Americans have better access to important new technologies such as medical imaging than do patients in Canada or Britain. An overwhelming majority of leading American physicians identify computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) as the

most important medical innovations for improving patient care during the previous decade--even as economists and policy makers unfamiliar with actual medical practice decry these techniques as wasteful. The United States has thirty-four CT scanners per million Americans, compared to twelve in Canada and eight in Britain. The United States has almost twenty-seven MRI machines per million people compared to about six per million in Canada and Britain; and

Whereas, Americans are responsible for the vast majority of all health care innovations. The top five United States hospitals conduct more clinical trials than all the hospitals in any other developed country. Since the mid-1970s, the Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology has gone to United States residents more often than recipients from all other countries combined. In only five of the past thirty-four years did a scientist living in the United States not win or share in the prize. Most important recent medical innovations were developed in the United States; and

Whereas, The solution in health care reform lies in improving the quality and affordability of health care through market-based changes, not in dismantling the best health care system in the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to oppose a government run health care plan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.