

### ADOPTED CHILDREN—HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

July 26, 1988  
[S. Con. Res. 95]

Whereas at least 36,000 children in the United States are legally free for adoption and are living in foster care waiting for a permanent home;

Whereas many of the children are physically, mentally, and emotionally disabled;

Whereas some insurers deny health insurance to a disabled adopted child on the basis that the disability of the child is a preexisting condition;

Whereas the actions of the insurers impose a significant barrier to the adoption of children with disabilities because few prospective adoptive parents can afford to take the risk of adopting a child who will not be covered by health insurance;

Whereas under State law adoption severs the legal ties between the adopted child and the adopted child's birth parents, and creates a legal relationship with the adoptive parents;

Whereas in every State, State law has established that an adopted child has the same legal status as a biological child;

Whereas many insurers cover a biological child with the same disability born to the adoptive parents;

Whereas by denying health insurance coverage to disabled adopted children, insurers are discriminating against adopted children and establishing a policy contrary to State law; and

Whereas the barriers to adoption that deny children a permanent home and prevent couples and single individuals from establishing families should be eliminated: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Congress—*

(1) opposes discrimination in health insurance against adopted children;

(2) urges insurers to treat all adopted children identically to newly born biological children;

(3) urges State legislatures to encourage health insurers to cover adopted children of the insured, subscriber, or enrollee on the same basis as other dependents, with such coverage to be effective from the date of placement for purpose of adoption.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to—

(1) an appropriate official of the legislature of each State, and

(2) an appropriate official of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Agreed to July 26, 1988.

### BAHA'I FAITH—IRANIAN PERSECUTION

Aug. 8, 1988  
[S. Con. Res. 120]

Whereas the Congress has, by concurrent resolutions adopted in 1982 and 1984, and in numerous other appeals, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights

- of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith, Iran's largest religious minority;
- Whereas the Congress has condemned the Government of Iran's actions against Baha'is on account of their religious beliefs, and has urged the President to work with appropriate foreign governments and with the United Nations in efforts to appeal to the Government of Iran concerning the Baha'is;
- Whereas nearly 200 Iranian Baha'is, including many elected leaders of the religious community, have been executed since 1979, on account of their religious beliefs, thousands more have been imprisoned, and many subjected to torture and demands for recantation of their religious faith; and
- Whereas the Government of Iran has not only undertaken to deprive Baha'is of civil, economic, and social rights, but also has in many cases confiscated Baha'i community and personal property and denied access for Baha'is to education, employment, pensions, insurance, and other benefits available to other Iranians: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*  
That the Congress—

- (1) continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including Baha'is, in a manner consistent with that Government's obligations under international agreements guaranteeing the civil and political rights of its citizens;
- (2) welcomes reports of the recent release of Baha'is from prisons in Iran and takes note of the decline in the numbers of Baha'is and others executed in that country;
- (3) expresses the hope that these developments may indicate a greater willingness on the part of the Government of Iran to act in a manner consistent with its obligations under the various international agreements to which it is a party;
- (4) urges the Government of Iran to restore fully the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion, education, and equal protection of the law; and
- (5) calls upon the President—

(A) to continue to observe and report on developments affecting the Baha'i minority in Iran, and to monitor developments affecting Baha'is in countries in which their rights might be abridged on account of their religious beliefs;

(B) to cooperate with other governments in continuing to make appeals to the Government of Iran concerning the situation of the Baha'is;

(C) to initiate and support efforts in the United Nations and its agencies on behalf of measures to promote the protection of the religious rights of Baha'is; and

(D) to provide, and to urge others to provide, for refugee and humanitarian assistance for those Baha'is who flee their homelands for reasons of religious repression.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

Agreed to August 8, 1988.