

By Senator Jones

13-01726-10

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to create a nationwide Emergency Room
Staffing Initiative.

WHEREAS, a crisis exists whereby an insufficient number of
physicians and medical specialists are available to provide on-
call emergency room support, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide a more stable health care
system in America, an incentive must be created to encourage
physicians and medical specialists to more actively participate
in these on-call emergency room responsibilities as part of
their hospital staffing duties, and

WHEREAS, an increased number of indigent care cases and
patients without health insurance seeking medical attention has
helped to discourage many practitioners and specialists from
desiring to serve in on-call services in emergency rooms, and

WHEREAS, when combined with already dramatically reduced
reimbursement rates, the staffing crisis is exacerbated, NOW,
THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States is urged to create a
nationwide initiative in order to remedy this staffing crisis by
amending the nation's tax code to allow for all uncompensated
emergency room work to be eligible as a charitable deduction
against earned income for the practicing physician or medical
specialist up to a maximum of \$100,000. Charges eligible for

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30 this deduction should be based on a rate equivalent to 200
31 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate at the time the
32 service is rendered. In the absence of an applicable Medicare
33 billing code, hospitals may charge a fee not to exceed 100
34 percent of the average customary and reasonable charges allowed
35 under private health insurance for any services rendered.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
37 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
38 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
39 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
40 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.