

terms of the plan, or to timely authorize assurance of payment and clarify his rights to future benefits under the terms of the plans;"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this General Assembly most fervently urges and encourages each state legislative body in the nation to enact this resolution, or one similar in context and form, as a show of solidarity in petitioning the federal government for greater state authority and responsibility in regulating self-funded employer-based health plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 515, Washington, D.C., 20001; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the President of the United States; the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor; the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; and to the presiding officer of each chamber of each state legislature in the nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Signed May 27, 1999.

Joint Resolution No. 6

(House Joint Resolution No. 8)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

State Regulation of Self-Funded Employer-Based Health Plans

FOR the purpose of requesting the United States Congress to amend the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to authorize each state to monitor and to regulate self-funded employer-based health plans in order to increase access to care, to control costs, and to regulate against abuse by health plans, and to make a specific amendment to the ERISA; urging other state legislatures to enact a resolution similar to this resolution; and directing a copy of this resolution to be forwarded to certain individuals.