A C O N C U R R E N T   R E S O L U T I O N

To urge Congress to standardize home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs to better accommodate military families with special needs.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, There are 2.3 million children of active duty military service members enrolled in TRICARE, the health care program for military personnel; and

WHEREAS, While TRICARE provides comprehensive health care coverage for most military families, the program does not meet the unique health care needs of all enrolled families; and

WHEREAS, Of the 2.3 million children of active duty military service members enrolled in TRICARE, approximately 200,000 rely on Medicaid for supplemental health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid provides vital home and community-based services to military family members with disabilities that are not provided through TRICARE; and

WHEREAS, Home and community-based Medicaid services are
administered at the state level through waivers approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

WHEREAS, Because of this state-level administration, recipients lose access to services when moving from one state to another; and

WHEREAS, Military families relocate from one state to another every two or three years, creating a unique problem for families receiving home and community-based Medicaid waiver services; and

WHEREAS, With every permanent change of station order received, military families must reapply for home and community-based Medicaid waiver services in the state to which they relocate; and

WHEREAS, Due to long waiting lists, military families often wait years to receive home and community-based services in their new state; and

WHEREAS, By the time military families are able to obtain home and community-based waiver services, many families have received new permanent change of station orders requiring the family to relocate to another state and restart the process for obtaining waiver services; and

WHEREAS, Due to long waits to receive waiver services, active duty military service members must choose between keeping their family together or leaving dependent family members behind to ensure they receive a necessary level of care; and

WHEREAS, Requiring active duty military service members to make such decisions has a detrimental effect on the morale and readiness of our nation's military service members; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly
of the State of Ohio, urge Congress to standardize Medicaid home and community-based services waivers to permit eligible family members of active duty military service members to retain their home and community-based services when transferring from one state to another; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the members of Ohio's Congressional delegation and the news media of Ohio.