A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately issue a special enrollment period through HealthCare.gov for uninsured Ohioans who may be unable to access COVID-19 testing and treatment.

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

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States and Governor of Ohio have declared states of emergency due to the current COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a mass loss of jobs, the loss of trillions of dollars to the world economy, widespread economic hardship, and an unprecedented need for health care; and

WHEREAS, Testing and treatment for COVID-19 can cost...
WHEREAS, The prevalence and proliferation of COVID-19 outside of the annual Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period clearly meets the threshold for an exceptional circumstance and provides the justification necessary to issue a special enrollment period for those without comprehensive insurance who may be impacted; and

WHEREAS, Many state exchanges are considering or have already issued special enrollment periods as a means to protect residents and facilitate access to COVID-19 testing and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Ohio utilizes the federal exchange and cannot issue a special enrollment period; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently released guidance clarifying that the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 is generally covered by Qualified Health Plans as an Essential Health Benefit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately issue a special enrollment period through HealthCare.gov for uninsured Ohioans who may be unable to access COVID-19 testing and treatment and keep it open for at least sixty days; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Varma, and the news media of Ohio.