

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. C. R. No. 27

Representative Russo

**Cosponsors: Representatives Boggs, Galonski, Miranda, Miller, J., Lightbody,
Ingram, Smith, K., O'Brien, Lepore-Hagan, Sheehy, Weinstein, Sobbecki, Liston,
Boyd, Upchurch, Clites, West**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to 1
immediately issue a special enrollment period through 2
HealthCare.gov for uninsured Ohioans who may be unable 3
to access COVID-19 testing and treatment. 4

**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 5
in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 6
virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been 7
previously identified in humans and can easily spread from 8
person to person; and 9

WHEREAS, The President of the United States and Governor of 10
Ohio have declared states of emergency due to the current COVID- 11
19 pandemic; and 12

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a mass loss 13
of jobs, the loss of trillions of dollars to the world economy, 14
widespread economic hardship, and an unprecedented need for 15
health care; and 16

WHEREAS, Testing and treatment for COVID-19 can cost 17

thousands of dollars or more per individual; and 18

WHEREAS, The prevalence and proliferation of COVID-19 19
outside of the annual Affordable Care Act's open enrollment 20
period clearly meets the threshold for an exceptional 21
circumstance and provides the justification necessary to issue a 22
special enrollment period for those without comprehensive 23
insurance who may be impacted; and 24

WHEREAS, Many state exchanges are considering or have 25
already issued special enrollment periods as a means to protect 26
residents and facilitate access to COVID-19 testing and 27
treatment; and 28

WHEREAS, Ohio utilizes the federal exchange and cannot 29
issue a special enrollment period; and 30

WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 31
recently released guidance clarifying that the diagnosis and 32
treatment of COVID-19 is generally covered by Qualified Health 33
Plans as an Essential Health Benefit; now therefore be it 34

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 35
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge 36
the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately 37
issue a special enrollment period through HealthCare.gov for 38
uninsured Ohioans who may be unable to access COVID-19 testing 39
and treatment and keep it open for at least sixty days; and be 40
it further 41

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 42
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 43
Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human 44
Services Alex Azar, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare 45
and Medicaid Services Seema Varma, and the news media of Ohio. 46