

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 107

Senator McMorrow, Alexander, Bullock, Chang, Geiss, Johnson, Moss and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the federal government to fund the
2 medical costs associated with testing and mandatory hospital stays
3 for the novel coronavirus.

4 Whereas, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), also commonly
5 referred to as the 2019 novel coronavirus, is a mild to severe
6 respiratory illness with symptoms, including fever, cough, and
7 shortness of breath. Many patients with the most severe
8 complications have developed pneumonia in both lungs. Older adults
9 and people with underlying health conditions have the greatest risk
10 of developing serious illness. The mortality rate appears to be
11 higher than that of influenza; and

12 Whereas, The rapid spread of the disease coupled with its

1 higher mortality rate has raised international concerns about the
2 outbreak. The novel coronavirus was first detected in China but has
3 spread to nearly 70 locations internationally, including the United
4 States. The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a
5 public health emergency for the United States, signaling the
6 serious threat to public health posed by the virus; and

7 Whereas, Early detection of the disease, containment of cases
8 through quarantine or self-isolation, and access to treatment for
9 patients are imperative to prevent the spread of the virus and
10 protect the health of the public; and

11 Whereas, The uninsured and underinsured may forgo testing and
12 medical treatment to avoid costly medical bills, thereby increasing
13 the likelihood that the novel coronavirus will spread. Some
14 individuals and families already face thousands of dollars in
15 medical bills for quarantine and hospitalization related to the
16 virus; and

17 Whereas, The cost of testing may be a barrier to some
18 patients. Even though the Centers for Disease Control and
19 Prevention (CDC) provided initial test kits to public health
20 departments for free, the cost of testing may vary by state. It is
21 also unclear how much commercial tests will cost if private
22 laboratories bring them to the market; and

23 Whereas, The Director of the CDC has the authority to provide
24 federal payment for the care and treatment of people who are
25 subject to medical examination, quarantine, and isolation under
26 federal regulations. Covering the costs of testing and mandatory
27 hospital stays would help ensure that affected patients seek
28 testing, receive the proper care, and take appropriate steps to
29 prevent further spread of illness; now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the federal government to
2 fund the medical costs associated with testing and mandatory
3 hospital stays for the novel coronavirus; and be it further

4 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
5 President of the United States, the President of the United States
6 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
7 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.