

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 28

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to repeal the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 repeal the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,”
5 Pub.L.111-148, also called “Obamacare,” was enacted into law on
6 March 23, 2010, and was amended by the federal “Health Care and
7 Education Reconciliation Act of 2010,” Pub.L.111-152, enacted
8 into law on March 30, 2010; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The most significant provisions of the law are scheduled to
10 take effect on January 1, 2014, including the unfunded mandate that
11 individuals buy health insurance and most employers pay for health
12 insurance for their employees; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Several public opinion polls have found that a majority of
14 Americans do not support Obamacare, including a July 2013 poll
15 by The Morning Consult that found 67 percent of respondents
16 oppose the individual mandate and 77 percent favor delaying or
17 repealing it, including 65 percent of Democrats; and
18 **WHEREAS**, A letter sent to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and
19 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, signed by the presidents of
20 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United Food and
21 Commercial Workers International Union, and UNITE-HERE,
22 which are three of the nation’s largest unions, warns that
23 Obamacare will “shatter not only our hard-earned health benefits,
24 but destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the
25 backbone of the American middle class”; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The union leaders warn that Obamacare’s employer
27 mandate incentivizes companies to shift their workers to part-time
28 status, because employers will not be required to provide health
29 coverage to part-time workers; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Reducing employees’ hours to fewer than 30 hours per
31 week denies these workers both a living wage that they would have
32 earned and their current health benefits; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Obamacare may also incentivize small employers that
34 currently offer multi-employer plans, also called Taft-Hartley plans,
35 to drop coverage and shift their employees to the health insurance
36 exchanges, which would eliminate unions’ roles in health benefits
37 negotiations and give employees less reason to join a union; and
38 **WHEREAS**, So-called “Cadillac plans” enjoyed as a benefit of many
39 union members, including New Jersey State employees and other
40 middle class people, will be subject to and required to pay a “luxury
41 tax” on those plans; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Due to Obamacare, the “basic and essential” plans that
43 provide affordable health insurance coverage to approximately
44 106,000 New Jersey residents will be eliminated in 2014; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Beginning in 2014, individuals who had “basic and
46 essential” coverage will be required to buy more expensive
47 coverage; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The United States House of Representatives has approved
2 several bills that would repeal, defund, or render unenforceable
3 various provisions of Obamacare, including the “Keep the IRS Off
4 Your Health Care Act of 2013,” which passed the House on
5 August 2, 2013; and

6 **WHEREAS**, It is in the best interests of the citizens of the State of New
7 Jersey and this great nation to memorialize the United States
8 Congress to repeal Obamacare; now, therefore,

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10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
11 *Jersey:*

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13 1. The United States Congress is respectfully memorialized to
14 repeal the federal “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,”
15 Pub.L.111-148, along with the health care-related language of the
16 “Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010,”
17 Pub.L.111-152, also known as “Obamacare.”

18

19 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
20 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,
21 shall be transmitted to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
22 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
23 United States House of Representatives, and every member of
24 Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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29 This Assembly Resolution urges the United States Congress to
30 repeal the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” also
31 known as “Obamacare.”

32 On January 1, 2014, many of the most significant provisions of
33 Obamacare, including the individual and employer mandates, are
34 scheduled to take effect. These provisions are also some of the
35 most unpopular and most potentially damaging, as shown by public
36 opinion polls and statements by employers and union leaders. The
37 law will undermine employment by encouraging employers to
38 reduce workers’ hours, and will weaken worker benefits by
39 incentivizing employers to shift employees to the health insurance
40 exchanges. Obamacare will also make health insurance more
41 expensive for at least 100,000 New Jersey residents who currently
42 have “basic and essential” coverage, which is being eliminated as a
43 consequence of the law.