



General Assembly

**House Joint Resolution
No. 12**

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 4425

04425SB00012GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and
Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE
FOR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT BY POPULAR VOTE RATHER
THAN BY ELECTORAL COLLEGE, TO PRESERVE CERTAIN
PENSION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND TO EXPAND THE
SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM TO ALL STATES.**

1 Resolved by this Assembly:

2 Section 1.

3 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides for the election
4 of the President and Vice-President of the United States by an Electoral
5 College; and

6 WHEREAS, this process can result in the winners of the Electoral
7 College vote losing the direct popular vote for President and Vice-
8 President.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
10 General Assembly respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
11 United States to propose an amendment to the United States

12 Constitution, for ratification by the states, to abolish the Electoral
13 College and provide for the direct popular election of the President
14 and Vice-President; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
16 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution be
17 transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of
18 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and all
19 members of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

20 Sec. 2.

21 WHEREAS, some employers in Connecticut and in other states have
22 reduced or eliminated, or sought to reduce or eliminate, pension and
23 health insurance benefits promised by such employers to their retirees,
24 on which promises such retirees relied, and which promises induced
25 such retirees to continue their employment with those employers
26 instead of seeking employment elsewhere; and

27 WHEREAS, the trend toward the reduction or elimination of
28 pension and health insurance benefits of retirees threatens the health
29 and welfare of some senior citizens in Connecticut and threatens to
30 impose an onerous financial burden on the state to provide health care,
31 housing and other necessities of life that would otherwise have been
32 provided by such reduced or eliminated pension or health insurance
33 benefits; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1974 the United States Congress enacted and the
35 President signed into law the Employee Retirement Income Security
36 Act, also known as "ERISA", codified at 29 USC 1001, et seq., as
37 amended, which governs matters related to pensions and retirement
38 benefits offered by most nongovernmental employers to their
39 employees.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
41 General Assembly calls upon the United States Congress to amend

42 ERISA, or to enact or amend other appropriate federal law, to prohibit
43 employers from reducing or eliminating pension or health insurance
44 benefits of their retired employees, and calls upon each member of the
45 Connecticut Congressional delegation to take immediate action to
46 encourage the United States Congress to act in accordance with this
47 resolution; and

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerks of the House of
49 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be
50 sent to the President and each member of the Connecticut
51 Congressional delegation.

52 Sec. 3.

53 WHEREAS, Connecticut's subsidized guardianship program
54 provides an important road to permanence for abused and neglected
55 children in state custody for whom adoption is not an appropriate
56 alternative; and

57 WHEREAS, more than two thousand children have found
58 permanent homes in Connecticut with loving and caring relatives
59 through subsidized guardianship instead of lingering in long-term
60 foster care; and

61 WHEREAS, Connecticut has provided the sole funding for this vital
62 program because the federal government has failed to include
63 subsidized guardianship as a reimbursable expense under Title IV-E of
64 the Social Security Act foster care program; and

65 WHEREAS, the lack of federal funding for children who exit foster
66 care into subsidized guardianship makes the program more vulnerable
67 than the federally funded partnership that supports adoption
68 assistance and foster care programs; and

69 WHEREAS, allowing federal Title IV-E foster care funds to be used
70 for subsidized guardianship programs would help more children to
71 exit foster care into safe permanent homes with relatives and allow

72 other funds to be utilized more equitably among the full range of child
73 welfare services.

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
75 General Assembly calls upon the Congress of the United States to
76 make federal Title IV-E funds available to all states to establish or
77 expand subsidized guardianship programs as a permanency option for
78 abused and neglected children; and

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
80 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be
81 sent to each member of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

Co-Sponsors: REP. DREW, 132nd Dist.

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