

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 860

Expressing support for raising awareness about the growing population of young adults living with chronic health conditions in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mr. RASKIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for raising awareness about the growing population of young adults living with chronic health conditions in the United States.

Whereas due to advances in medicine and biotechnology, many young people with serious conditions including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, cancer, cerebral palsy, diabetes, and complex congenital heart disease are now living into adulthood;

Whereas the overall percentage of children in the United States with chronic conditions has increased in recent decades, and today more than 26 percent of children in the United States have special health care needs, defined

as having or being at increased risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions;

Whereas, between 2011 and 2017, approximately 4,500,000 youth in the United States with special health care needs transitioned from pediatric care to adult health care;

Whereas while definitions of “young adult” vary, many scholars consider individuals aged 18 to 34 to be young adults;

Whereas a 2015 National Academies report stated that young adults are a distinct population from adolescents and older adults, and will benefit from targeted studies, research, policies, and programs;

Whereas proactive and preventive care for young adults living with chronic conditions is essential for improving their health and quality of life, and for reducing the overall cost of care;

Whereas medical research has demonstrated the need for a holistic lifespan approach to chronic disease management that integrates physical, mental, and behavioral health;

Whereas former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, speaking about adolescents and young people with chronic conditions in 1989, presciently warned of the “barriers they encounter and must surmount if they are to secure ongoing quality medical care as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood”;

Whereas the United States health care system often does not adequately address the unique needs of young adults with chronic conditions, and too often they remain a largely invisible population in research and policymaking;

Whereas a 2015 National Academies report found that “the transition from pediatric to adult providers is confusing

and difficult, especially for those with behavioral health problems or a chronic condition”, and that the challenges include a lack of training in childhood-onset conditions among adult providers, poor communication between child and adult providers and systems of care, and discontinuities in care;

Whereas the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine has found that young adults with chronic conditions who belong to marginalized groups are less likely to experience a successful transition to the adult health care system, including youth emerging from the foster care system or the juvenile justice system, youth of color, and youth from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas young adults are the age group in the United States least likely to have health insurance, with 2022 Census data indicating that 14 percent of young adults ages 19 to 25 are uninsured and 12.5 percent of young adults ages 26 to 34 are uninsured;

Whereas young adults with chronic conditions sometimes struggle to find institutional support for their conditions in educational settings and in the workplace;

Whereas the mental health crisis among young people has become more severe since the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, with approximately one-third of young adults living with mental illness, and young adults with chronic conditions are at higher risk of secondary mental health conditions;

Whereas young adults with chronic conditions who do not receive high-quality, appropriate care are at risk for poor health outcomes and missing important social, educational, and economic milestones;

Whereas young adults who have chronic conditions are at higher risk of mortality from their illness and from mental health conditions, and national data, studies, and policy action are urgently needed in this area; and

Whereas when young adults with chronic conditions face barriers to fulfilling their full potential, it has harmful consequences for our whole society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports efforts to increase awareness of
3 the unique challenges faced by young adults struggling
4 with chronic conditions in the United States;

5 (2) reaffirms the importance of research and
6 interagency data sharing on the population of young
7 adults who have chronic conditions; and

8 (3) recognizes the importance of improving
9 quality of life, health care access, and higher education
10 and employment outcomes for all young
11 adults with chronic conditions.

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