

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6005

A RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to Enact a Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

WHEREAS, The use of prescription drugs improves the quality of care and helps patients live healthier, longer and more productive lives while keeping them out of more costly acute care settings in the long term; and

WHEREAS, The increased use of new and improved prescription drugs has changed the delivery of health care in the United States since Medicare was enacted and while two-thirds of the Medicare population has some form of prescription drug coverage, although it many times is inadequate, one-third of Medicare beneficiaries have no coverage at all; and

WHEREAS, Congress did not enact a drug benefit in the Medicare program, therefore the program is inadequate in providing the elderly and disabled the most appropriate drug therapies, preventing the delivery of quality health care at an affordable cost; and

WHEREAS, The private sector provides affordable coverage by negotiating discounts on drugs and meeting the needs of special populations with chronic diseases and those with co-morbidities through coordinating care with disease management, drug utilization review and patient education programs, all of which aid in ameliorating medical errors; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive reform of the Medicare program would utilize the successful tools of the private sector in coordinating care for this population and use the marketplace to foster competition among private plans, resulting in more choices of quality coverage for seniors and the disabled while maintaining the financial sustainability of the program; and

WHEREAS, Congress' inaction has failed to provide for comprehensive reform of Medicare, encouraging states to use their own resources to ease the burden of their elderly and disabled populations and effectively assume an unfunded, informal mandate; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office and the United States Department of Health and Human Services have estimated there are thousands of Medicare recipients in Kansas that rely on Kansas Medicaid for prescription drug benefits and that Kansas would save \$330,000,000 in Medicaid funds over the period 2005 - 2012 if Congress would enact this long-overdue Medicare health benefit; and

WHEREAS, In implementing state programs to assist the Medicare population, state budgetary constraints often result in requirements to restrict and limit the patients' access to needed prescription drugs and cause anti-competitive price controls: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we urge the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to enact financially sustainable, voluntary, universal and privately administered out-patient prescription drug coverage as part of the federal Medicare program;

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.