

By Senator Saunders

25-2084A-02

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

2 A resolution supporting Medicare coverage for  
3 oral cancer drugs.

4  
5 WHEREAS, cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and  
6 mortality in the State of Florida and throughout the nation,  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, cancer is disproportionately a disease of the  
9 elderly, with more than half of all cancer diagnoses occurring  
10 in persons age 65 or older, who are thus dependent on the  
11 federal Medicare program for provision of cancer care, and

12 WHEREAS, treatment with anti-cancer drugs is the  
13 cornerstone of modern cancer care, elderly cancer patients  
14 must have access to potentially life-extending drug therapy,  
15 but the Medicare program's coverage of drugs is limited to  
16 injectable drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable  
17 version, and

18 WHEREAS, the nation's investment in biomedical research  
19 has begun to bear fruit with a compelling array of new oral  
20 anti-cancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective, and  
21 more cost-effective than existing therapies, but, because such  
22 drugs do not have an injectable equivalent, they are not  
23 covered by Medicare, and

24 WHEREAS, noncoverage of these important new products  
25 leaves many Medicare beneficiaries confronting the choice of  
26 either sustaining substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or  
27 selecting more toxic, less effective treatments that are  
28 covered by the program, and

29 WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral anti-cancer  
30 drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries who are suffering from

31

1 blood-related cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma,  
2 as well as cancers of the breast, lung, and prostate, and

3 WHEREAS, certain members of the United States Congress  
4 have recognized the necessity of Medicare coverage for all  
5 oral anti-cancer drugs and have introduced legislation in the  
6 107th congress to achieve that result (H.R. 1624; S. 913),  
7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8

9 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

10

11 That the Florida Senate expresses its support for the  
12 consideration by the Congress of the United States of  
13 legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral  
14 anti-cancer drugs.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31