

By Representatives Green, Goodlette, Simmons, Rubio, Ross, Maygarden, Paul, Kilmer, Negron, Alexander, Murman, Brummer, Needelman, Bowen, Littlefield, Fiorentino, Kottkamp, Mayfield, Fasano, Ball, Byrd, Russell, Harrell, Harrington, Atwater, (Additional Sponsors on Last Printed Page)

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the importance of  
3 legislation providing oral anticancer drugs to  
4 elderly citizens.

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral anticancer  
31 drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries suffering from

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 anticancer drugs and have introduced legislation in the  
6 107th Congress (H.R. 1624; S. 913) to achieve that result,  
7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8  
9 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
10 Florida:

11  
12 That the House of Representatives recognizes the  
13 importance of legislation providing oral anticancer drugs to  
14 elderly citizens.

15  
16  
17 \*\*\*\*\*

18  
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