



HM 1077

2003

House Memorial

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2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to enact financially sustainable, voluntary,
4 universal, and privately administered outpatient
5 prescription drug coverage as part of the federal Medicare
6 program.

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, comprehensive reform of the Medicare program would
30 utilize the successful tools of the private sector in



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31 coordinating care for this population and use the marketplace to
 32 foster competition among private plans, resulting in more
 33 choices of quality coverage for seniors and the disabled while
 34 maintaining the financial sustainability of the program, and

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

40 WHEREAS, in implementing state programs to assist the
 41 Medicare population, state budgetary constraints can often
 42 result in requirements to restrict and limit the patients'
 43 access to needed prescription drugs, and in the enactment of
 44 anticompetitive price controls, NOW, THEREFORE,

45
 46 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 48 That the Legislature of the State of Florida requests that
 49 the United States House of Representatives and the United States
 50 Senate enact financially sustainable, voluntary, universal, and
 51 privately administered outpatient prescription drug coverage as
 52 part of the federal Medicare program.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 54 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 55 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 56 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 57 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.