

By Senator Peaden

2-1216-03

1 Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United  
3 States, urging Congress to enact a Medicare  
4 Prescription Drug Benefit.

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, comprehensive reform of the Medicare program  
29 would use the successful tools of the private sector in  
30 coordinating care for this population and use the marketplace  
31 to foster competition among private plans, resulting in more

1 choices of quality coverage for seniors and the disabled while  
2 maintaining the financial sustainability of the program, and

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

8 WHEREAS, in implementing state programs to assist the  
9 Medicare population, state budgetary constraints can often  
10 result in requirements to restrict and limit the patient's  
11 access to needed prescription drugs, and enact anticompetitive  
12 price controls, NOW, THEREFORE,

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14 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 That the Congress of the United States is urged to  
17 enact financially sustainable, voluntary, universal, and  
18 privately administered out-patient prescription drug coverage  
19 as part of the federal Medicare program.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
22 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
23 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
24 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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