

By Senator Peadar

2-1100-05

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

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to amend the Social Security Act.

WHEREAS, current federal and state medical assistance expenditures for long-term-care services in Florida exceed \$4.2 billion annually, with the state's annual share at approximately \$1.7 billion, and

WHEREAS, skyrocketing costs of providing care to persons who need assistance to meet daily needs have hit the middle class particularly hard, and

WHEREAS, the national average cost for nursing home care is approximately \$50,000 per year, and

WHEREAS, costs to the residents of Florida will rise because of increasing demands for services as our population ages, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the long-term-care partnership program is to provide incentives to individuals to purchase long-term-care insurance and consequently to relieve the financial burdens on the states when they assume payment for the long-term-care needs of their citizens under the Medicaid program by allowing individuals who exhaust qualified private long-term-care policy benefits to protect an equivalent value of assets and still satisfy Medicaid's financial eligibility requirements, and

WHEREAS, the concept of long-term-care partnerships results in private insurance paying first and government paying last, and

WHEREAS, the four states that have had partnership plans for almost a decade, specifically, California,

1 Connecticut, Indiana and New York, have experienced  
2 significant savings to taxpayers and have seen fewer than 100  
3 total partnership purchasers qualify for Medicaid, and

4 WHEREAS, American citizens in 46 states, the District  
5 of Columbia, and territories of the United States are being  
6 discriminated against by not being able to enjoy the benefits  
7 provided by long-term-care partnership plans due to a  
8 restriction present in section 1917(b)(1)(C) of the Social  
9 Security Act which has discouraged additional states from  
10 enacting long-term-care partnership programs by effectively  
11 removing the major incentive for individuals to participate,  
12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13  
14 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 That the United States Congress is requested to amend  
17 section 1917(b)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act by deleting  
18 "May 14, 1993," as the deadline for approval by states of  
19 long-term-care partnership plans, thus affording states  
20 throughout the nation the ability to give their citizens the  
21 same rights to participate in those types of plans.

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

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