

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0011

Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harvey and Meuli

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the United States Congress to
2 enact financially sustainable, voluntary, universal and
3 privately administered out-patient prescription drug
4 coverage as part of the federal Medicare program.

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

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

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2 WHEREAS, Congress did not enact a drug benefit in the
3 Medicare program, therefore the program is inadequate in
4 providing the elderly and disabled the most appropriate
5 drug therapies, preventing the delivery of quality health
6 care at an affordable cost;

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8 WHEREAS, the private sector provides affordable coverage by
9 negotiating discounts on drugs and meeting the needs of
10 special populations with chronic diseases and those with
11 co-morbidities through coordinating care with disease
12 management, drug utilization review, and patient education
13 programs, all of which aid in ameliorating medical errors;

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15 WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office and the United
16 States Department of Health and Human Services have
17 estimated there are thousands of Medicare recipients in
18 Wyoming that rely on the Medicaid program for prescription
19 drug benefits and that Wyoming would save approximately
20 thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000.00) in Medicaid
21 funds over the period 2005–2012 if Congress would enact
22 this long-overdue Medicare health benefit.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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4 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature does
5 not condone its Medicare recipients being deprived of
6 necessary health benefits in the form of prescriptive
7 drugs.

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9 **Section 2.** That the Wyoming State Legislature
10 encourages the United States Congress to enact a
11 financially sustainable, voluntary, universal and privately
12 administered out-patient prescription drug coverage as part
13 of the federal Medicare program.

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15 **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
16 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
17 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
19 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional
20 Delegation.

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(END)