

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

INTRODUCED BY S. RICE, HANSEN, ELLIOTT, L. NELSON, NISBET,
CODY, SCOTT, STEPPLER, MENAHAN, QUILICI, FORRESTER

IN THE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 19, 1991 INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING.

FEBRUARY 20, 1991 FIRST READING.

FEBRUARY 23, 1991 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL
DO PASS. REPORT ADOPTED.

 POSTED ON CONSENT CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY 25, 1991 CONSENT CALENDAR, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

 ENGROSSING REPORT.

FEBRUARY 26, 1991 THIRD READING, PASSED.
AYES, 98; NOES, 0.

 TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

FEBRUARY 26, 1991 INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, & SAFETY.

 FIRST READING.

MARCH 27, 1991 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE
CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT
ADOPTED.

APRIL 3, 1991 SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.

APRIL 4, 1991 THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN.
AYES, 49; NOES, 1.

 RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS.

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 10, 1991 RECEIVED FROM SENATE.

 SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS
CONCURRED IN.

APRIL 11, 1991

THIRD READING, AMENDMENTS
CONCURRED IN.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

REPORTED CORRECTLY ENROLLED.

1 *HOUSE* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Steve Hancock*
 3 *Robert C. Anderson* *Stephen Menakow*
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO
 6 ADEQUATELY FUND MEDICARE.

7
 8 WHEREAS, the Legislature is concerned that all citizens
 9 of the State of Montana 65 years of age and older do not
 10 have access to physician services but should have such
 11 access regardless of their ability to pay; and

12 WHEREAS, 18 counties in the State of Montana are without
 13 physician services; and

14 WHEREAS, this loss of access to medical care in many
 15 areas of our state will only increase unless the factors
 16 causing physicians to leave and causing physicians not to
 17 come into the state to replace those who are retiring are
 18 reversed; and

19 WHEREAS, when physician services become unavailable,
 20 hospitals are forced to close, further exacerbating the lack
 21 of access to medical care; and

22 WHEREAS, this lack of access to medical care is
 23 particularly difficult for persons over 65, many of whom
 24 have fixed incomes, because of the increased necessity to
 25 obtain medical care by traveling further distances, in many

1 cases with the complications of physical disabilities,
 2 hearing and sight loss, need for a traveling companion, and
 3 resultant increased costs for that transportation, food, and
 4 lodging; and

5 WHEREAS, a contributing factor to the lack of physician
 6 services in the State of Montana is the low level at which
 7 the federal government funds Medicare reimbursement in this
 8 state; and

9 WHEREAS, Congress has slashed billions of dollars from
 10 the Medicare program during the 1980s and the current
 11 administration is proposing further cuts in the
 12 appropriations for Medicare; and

13 WHEREAS, the number of Medicare recipients has been
 14 increasing; and

15 WHEREAS, reimbursement of physician fees under Medicare
 16 Part B have been either frozen or substantially limited
 17 since July 1, 1984, even though the costs to physicians who
 18 provide Medicare services have increased during the same
 19 period; and

20 WHEREAS, Medicare recipients are required to pay a
 21 greater proportion of physician fees because of reduced
 22 appropriations to the Medicare program, together with an
 23 increased number of Medicare recipients, and not because
 24 physician fees have increased; and

25 WHEREAS, Montana citizens contribute to the Medicare



LC 2033/01

1 program amounts equal to those contributed by citizens of
2 other states, yet Part B payments for Medicare services to
3 Montana citizens are considerably less than those paid in
4 most other states.

5

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
7 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8 That the Montana Congressional Delegation be requested
9 to seek Medicare funding at a level sufficient to cover the
10 increasing number of Medicare recipients and the increasing
11 costs to physicians who provide care to Medicare recipients.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Congressional
13 Delegation and the President of the United States be urged
14 not to make further cuts in appropriations to Medicare, but
15 to increase those appropriations particularly to Medicare
16 beneficiaries in rural states.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send
18 copies of this resolution to each member of the Montana
19 Congressional Delegation, the President of the United
20 States, the Montana Medical Association, the Montana Nurses
21 Association, and each senior citizen organization currently
22 registered as a lobbying organization before the Montana
23 Legislature, and other senior citizen organizations known to
24 the Secretary of State.

-End-

Amuse JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *40*
 INTRODUCED BY *Steve Stapp, Jean Hansen, [Signature]*
Robert [Signature]
Robert [Signature]
Robert [Signature]

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO ADEQUATELY FUND MEDICARE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature is concerned that all citizens of the State of Montana 65 years of age and older do not have access to physician services but should have such access regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, 18 counties in the State of Montana are without physician services; and

WHEREAS, this loss of access to medical care in many areas of our state will only increase unless the factors causing physicians to leave and causing physicians not to come into the state to replace those who are retiring are reversed; and

WHEREAS, when physician services become unavailable, hospitals are forced to close, further exacerbating the lack of access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, this lack of access to medical care is particularly difficult for persons over 65, many of whom have fixed incomes, because of the increased necessity to obtain medical care by traveling further distances, in many

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cases with the complications of physical disabilities, hearing and sight loss, need for a traveling companion, and resultant increased costs for that transportation, food, and lodging; and

WHEREAS, a contributing factor to the lack of physician services in the State of Montana is the low level at which the federal government funds Medicare reimbursement in this state; and

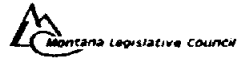
WHEREAS, Congress has slashed billions of dollars from the Medicare program during the 1980s and the current administration is proposing further cuts in the appropriations for Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the number of Medicare recipients has been increasing; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement of physician fees under Medicare Part B have been either frozen or substantially limited since July 1, 1984, even though the costs to physicians who provide Medicare services have increased during the same period; and

WHEREAS, Medicare recipients are required to pay a greater proportion of physician fees because of reduced appropriations to the Medicare program, together with an increased number of Medicare recipients, and not because physician fees have increased; and

WHEREAS, Montana citizens contribute to the Medicare



-2-
 THIRD READING
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2 other states, yet Part B payments for Medicare services to
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18 copies of this resolution to each member of the Montana
19 Congressional Delegation, the President of the United
20 States, the Montana Medical Association, the Montana Nurses
21 Association, and each senior citizen organization currently
22 registered as a lobbying organization before the Montana
23 Legislature, and other senior citizen organizations known to
24 the Secretary of State.

-End-

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
March 27, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT,

We, your committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Safety having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 40 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Joint Resolution No. 40 be amended and as so amended be concurred in:

1. Page 2, line 6.

Following: "in"

Strike: "the State of"

Insert: "rural"

2. Page 2, line 13.

Following: "Medicare"

Strike: "recipients"

Insert: "beneficiaries"

3. Page 2, line 16.

Following: "B"

Strike: "have"

Insert: "has"

4. Page 2, lines 20 through 24.

Strike: lines 20 through 24 in their entirety

Insert: "WHEREAS, Medicare beneficiaries are paying an increasingly greater percentage of their income for medical care, including at least 20% of the approved medical bill, a \$100 deductible on medical expenses, a deductible of \$628 for hospitalization, and all costs of medicine; and"

5. Page 3, line 10.

Following: "Medicare"

Strike: "recipients"

Insert: "beneficiaries"

6. Page 3, line 11.

Following: "Medicare"

Strike: "recipients"

Insert: "beneficiaries"

Signed: _____

Dorothy Eck
Dorothy Eck, Chairman

MA 3-27-91
And. Coord.

SB 3-27 2:20
Sec. of Senate

SENATE
HJR 40

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 2 INTRODUCED BY S. RICE, HANSEN, ELLIOTT, L. NELSON, NISBET,
 3 CODY, SCOTT, STEPLER, MENAHAN, QUILICI, FORRESTER

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 16 areas of our state will only increase unless the factors
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 24 particularly difficult for persons over 65, many of whom
 25 have fixed incomes, because of the increased necessity to

1 obtain medical care by traveling further distances, in many
 2 cases with the complications of physical disabilities,
 3 hearing and sight loss, need for a traveling companion, and
 4 resultant increased costs for that transportation, food, and
 5 lodging; and

6 WHEREAS, a contributing factor to the lack of physician
 7 services in the-State-of RURAL Montana is the low level at
 8 which the federal government funds Medicare reimbursement in
 9 this state; and

10 WHEREAS, Congress has slashed billions of dollars from
 11 the Medicare program during the 1980s and the current
 12 administration is proposing further cuts in the
 13 appropriations for Medicare; and

14 WHEREAS, the number of Medicare recipients BENEFICIARIES
 15 has been increasing; and

16 WHEREAS, reimbursement of physician fees under Medicare
 17 Part B have HAS been either frozen or substantially limited
 18 since July 1, 1984, even though the costs to physicians who
 19 provide Medicare services have increased during the same
 20 period; and

21 ~~WHEREAS, Medicare recipients are required to pay a~~
 22 ~~greater proportion of physician fees because of reduced~~
 23 ~~appropriations to the Medicare program, together with an~~
 24 ~~increased number of Medicare recipients, and not because~~
 25 ~~physician fees have increased, and~~



1 WHEREAS, MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES ARE PAYING AN
 2 INCREASINGLY GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR INCOME FOR MEDICAL
 3 CARE, INCLUDING AT LEAST 20% OF THE APPROVED MEDICAL BILL, A
 4 \$100 DEDUCTIBLE ON MEDICAL EXPENSES, A DEDUCTIBLE OF \$628
 5 FOR HOSPITALIZATION, AND ALL COSTS OF MEDICINE; AND

6 WHEREAS, Montana citizens contribute to the Medicare
 7 program amounts equal to those contributed by citizens of
 8 other states, yet Part B payments for Medicare services to
 9 Montana citizens are considerably less than those paid in
 10 most other states.

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-End-