

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

2 INTRODUCED BY DEBRUYCKER

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE EXORBITANT DRUG PRICES THAT ARE
6 BEING CHARGED TO CUSTOMERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

7

8 WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cost of prescription drugs is causing a hardship for low-income
9 seniors and low-income persons of all ages; and

10 WHEREAS, the problem is not caused by local pharmacists who at this time are engaged in a class
11 action suit to correct this injustice; and

12 WHEREAS, some of the cost of research and development of prescription drugs is funded through
13 the National Institutes of Health and paid for by tax dollars; and

14 WHEREAS, the prescription drugs manufactured by these United States companies can be
15 purchased in Canada or Mexico for one-half to one-third of the cost in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, most seniors are reliant on Medicare, which does not pay for most prescription drugs;
17 many Americans' health insurance does not cover prescription drugs; and altogether, consumers purchase
18 three-quarters of all prescription drugs out of pocket; and

19 WHEREAS, many seniors live on fixed incomes, and incomes have not kept pace with the prices
20 of prescription drugs that from 1980 to 1991 outpaced the general inflation rate 3 to 1.

21

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

24 That the United States Congress continue its investigation into the reasons for the exorbitant drug
25 prices charged to customers who have no other alternatives and enact legislation to remedy this situation.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the
27 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President
28 of the United States Senate, and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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-END-

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BUSINESS & LABOR

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21 WHEREAS, CERTAIN CONSUMERS HAVE NO RECOURSE OTHER THAN TO USE DRUGS
22 REGULATED BY THE FEDERAL ORPHAN DRUG ACT, AND THE PRICES OF THESE DRUGS ARE NOT
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