
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF THE MEDICARE ACCESS TO REHABILITATION SERVICES ACT OF 2005, TO PERMANENTLY REMOVE THE MEDICARE OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY MONETARY CAPS.

1 WHEREAS, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, imposed monetary
2 caps on Medicare services for occupational therapy and physical
3 therapy; and
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5 WHEREAS, currently, the caps on these services are not
6 actually in effect due to a two-year moratorium that began on
7 January 1, 2004. However, the moratorium ended on January 1,
8 2006, and each Medicare beneficiary will be eligible for a
9 maximum benefit of about \$1,700 for these services; and
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11 WHEREAS, these rehabilitation services are very important
12 to those elderly individuals suffering from strokes, hip
13 fractures, Parkinson's disease, and osteoporosis, among other
14 ailments, especially in light of the fixed incomes of most of
15 these patients who would need to pay out of their own pockets
16 any rehabilitation services costs beyond \$1,700; and
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18 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has recognized the
19 flaws in the therapy caps, enacting a moratorium on the caps
20 three separate times; and
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22 WHEREAS, in 2005, Senator John Ensign of Nevada and
23 Representative Phil English of Pennsylvania introduced S. 438
24 and H.R. 916, respectively, entitled The Medicare Access To
25 Rehabilitation Services Act Of 2005, which seeks to permanently
26 repeal the Medicare therapy caps; and
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28 WHEREAS, the two bills enjoy very strong support in general
29 with one hundred fourteen members of the House of
30 Representatives and twenty-nine Senators signing on to the bills
31 and momentum for support rapidly building; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2006, that this body strongly urges the United States
 4 Congress to support the passage and enactment of The Medicare
 5 Access To Rehabilitation Services Act of 2005, S. 438 and H.R.
 6 916, to permanently remove the Medicare outpatient
 7 rehabilitation therapy monetary caps; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of Hawaii's
 10 congressional delegation are strongly urged to support the same
 11 measures in their respective houses of Congress; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 15 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
 16 United States House of Representatives, and the members of
 17 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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