

FEB 06 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RE-EVALUATE THE
MEDICARE FORMULA FOR COMPUTING PAYMENTS TO DOCTORS OR TAKE
OTHER MEASURES TO AVERT FUTURE REDUCTIONS IN PAYMENTS FOR
SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, approximately forty-three million elderly and
2 disabled individuals are insured by Medicare; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the Medicare program will
5 spend over sixty billion dollars in payments for services
6 provided by doctors and other health care professionals; and

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8 WHEREAS, a proposed cut of 5.1 per cent in Medicare
9 spending for payments for services provided by doctors was
10 proposed; and

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12 WHEREAS, Congress deferred the cut, and froze the current
13 rates for payments for services instead; and

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15 WHEREAS, Congress also established a pay-for-performance
16 system that enables doctors to qualify for a 1.5 per cent bonus
17 if they report data on the quality of their care using measures
18 specified by the federal government; and

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20 WHEREAS, there has been concern expressed regarding federal
21 agencies setting benchmarks for care; and

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23 WHEREAS, while Congress has deferred the cut in Medicare
24 spending for payments for services, future payments are unlikely
25 to keep pace with inflation; and

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27 WHEREAS, doctors may face even greater cuts in Medicare
28 spending for payments for services next year; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
32 that the United States Congress is requested to re-evaluate the
33 Medicare formula for computing payments to doctors or take other



1 measures to avert future reductions in Medicare spending for
2 payments for services; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United
6 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
7 Representatives, and the members of the Hawaii Congressional
8 Delegation.
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