
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING AN INCREASE FOR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, federal statutes generally require the United
2 States Secretary of Health and Human Services, through its
3 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to establish the
4 Medicare fee schedules for all Medicare localities in the nation
5 and its territories; and

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7 WHEREAS, under the fee schedules, each medical service,
8 treatment, or procedure, as identified by its CPT code, is
9 assigned a fee which is basically the product of a set of
10 relative value units multiplied by a conversion factor; and

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12 WHEREAS, each fee is adjusted upward or downward for each
13 Medicare locality through a set of geographic practice cost
14 indices, which are multiplied with the corresponding set of
15 relative value units; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
18 generally establishes the numeric values for the relative value
19 units, conversion factors, and geographic practice cost indices;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, in 2003, Congress, instead of the Centers for
23 Medicare and Medicaid Services, specifically established the
24 numeric values of the geographic practice cost indices
25 applicable to Alaska; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and
28 Modernization Act of 2003, P.L. No. 108-173, section 602(2),
29 established one floor for the geographic practice cost indices
30 for services rendered in Alaska in the years 2004 and 2005 by
31 specifying that:
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1 For purposes of payment for services furnished in Alaska on
 2 or after January 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2006, after
 3 calculating the practice expense, malpractice, and work
 4 geographic indices in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of
 5 subparagraph (A) and in subparagraph (B), the Secretary
 6 shall increase any such index to 1.67 if such index would
 7 otherwise be less than 1.67.;

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9 and

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11 WHEREAS, the Congressional history behind this provision,
 12 as expressed in the conference agreement in House Conference
 13 Report 108-391, merely specifies that:



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15 In calendar years 2004 and 2005, for physician services
 16 provided in Alaska, the Secretary is required to increase
 17 geographic practice cost indices to a level of 1.67 for
 18 each of the work, practice expense and malpractice cost
 19 indices.;

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21 and

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23 WHEREAS, in contrast, the geographic practice cost indices
 24 for Hawaii in 2005, for example, were significantly lower at
 25 1.001 for work, 1.118 for practice expense, and 0.800 for
 26 malpractice cost; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 30 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the members of Hawaii's
 31 congressional delegation are requested to pursue federal
 32 legislation to increase reimbursements to physicians rendering
 33 services in Hawaii; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
 37 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

