
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES AND MEDICAL INSURANCE PROVIDERS TO CREATE A PENALTY OR DISINCENTIVE FOR THOSE WHO ABUSE EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS.

1 WHEREAS, the high cost of health care should be everyone's
2 concern; and

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4 WHEREAS, emergency room visits are six times more expensive
5 than regular office visits and unnecessary emergency room visits
6 add to increased health care costs that are passed on to federal
7 and state governments and, in turn, burden all taxpayers; and

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9 WHEREAS, emergency rooms are a part of our health care
10 system and are required to provide care to all people whether
11 they can pay or not and, therefore, emergency rooms have turned
12 into clinics for those who are uninsured, underinsured,
13 homeless, and addicted to illegal drugs; and

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15 WHEREAS, studies show that the majority of people who use
16 emergency rooms for non-emergency treatment have no insurance,
17 or are covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or equivalent state-
18 provided insurance; and

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20 WHEREAS, non-emergency visits to emergency rooms prolong
21 wait times, cause serious threats to the proper functioning of
22 emergency rooms, and negatively impact those who truly need
23 immediate attention; and

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25 WHEREAS, the frequency of these non-emergency visits to
26 emergency rooms makes it very difficult to implement the triage
27 system; and

28 WHEREAS, emergency rooms are intended for those with
29 serious medical problems and those needing immediate care, but
30 many beds are being used for non-emergency treatment; and



1 WHEREAS, charging co-payments for emergency room use will
2 curb abuse; and

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4 WHEREAS, studies have shown that people who were charged
5 co-payments used emergency rooms twenty to forty percent less
6 than those who were not charged co-payments; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2012, that this body urges the Centers for Medicare &
11 Medicaid Services and major medical insurance providers to find
12 a solution to curb emergency room abuse; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Centers for Medicare &
15 Medicaid Services and major medical insurers are urged to impose
16 a fine, charge a co-payment, or levy sanctions against members
17 who abuse the intended use of an emergency room; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of
21 Health and Human Services, Administrator of the Centers for
22 Medicare & Medicaid Services, Director of Human Services, and
23 the Insurance Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY: *Justin P. Altonilla*

John M. ...
MAR 14 2012

