

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 207

Sponsors: Representatives Wright, Brubaker (Primary Sponsors); Church, Gorman, Hunter, LaRoque, McLawhorn, Sutton, and Warren.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 5, 2003

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT A MEDICARE
2 PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT.

3 Whereas, the use of prescription drugs improves the quality of care and helps
4 patients live healthier, longer, and more productive lives while keeping them out of
5 more costly acute care settings in the long term; and

6 Whereas, the increased use of new and improved prescription drugs has
7 changed the delivery of health care in the United States since Medicare was enacted,
8 and while two-thirds of the Medicare population has some form of prescription drug
9 coverage, although it many times is inadequate, one-third of Medicare beneficiaries
10 have no coverage at all; and

11 Whereas, Congress did not enact a drug benefit in the Medicare program,
12 therefore the program is inadequate in providing the elderly and disabled the most
13 appropriate drug therapies, preventing the delivery of quality health care at an
14 affordable cost; and

15 Whereas, the private sector provides affordable coverage by negotiating
16 discounts on drugs and meeting the needs of special populations with chronic diseases
17 and those with co-morbidities through coordinating care with disease management, drug
18 utilization review, and patient education programs, all of which aid in ameliorating
19 medical errors; and

20 Whereas, comprehensive reform of the Medicare program would utilize the
21 successful tools of the private sector in coordinating care for this population and use the
22 marketplace to foster competition among private plans, resulting in more choices of
23 quality coverage for seniors and the disabled while maintaining the financial
24 sustainability of the program; and

25 Whereas, Congress' inaction has failed to provide for comprehensive reform
26 of Medicare, encouraging states to use their own resources to ease the burden of their
27 elderly and disabled populations and effectively assume an unfunded, informal
28 mandate; and

1 Whereas, in implementing state programs to assist the Medicare population,
2 state budgetary constraints can often result in requirements to restrict and limit the
3 patients' access to needed presentation drugs, and enact anticompetitive price controls;

4 Now, therefore,

5 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

6 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives urges Congress to enact
7 financially sustainable, voluntary, universal, and privately administered outpatient
8 prescription drug coverage as part of a comprehensive reform of the federal Medicare
9 program.

10 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to
11 each member of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

12 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.