

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1029 By: Steidley

A Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact laws or otherwise cause the United States Department of Health and Human Services to revise the Medicare Regulations regarding admitting privileges for Occupational Therapists; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Occupational Therapy is recognized as a professional and skilled discipline; and

WHEREAS, the educational and licensing requirements for Occupational Therapists are similar to those for Physical Therapists and other health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, under the current Medicare Regulations, Occupational Therapists are not afforded the same patient admitting privileges for home health services as are allowed for Registered Nurses, Physical Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists; and

WHEREAS, in many cases a patient may only need the specialized services of an Occupational Therapist, but the current regulations require the patient to also utilize the services of another medical professional in order to receive occupational therapy services; and

WHEREAS, the requirements of the current Medicare Regulations can potentially lead to increased costs by duplication of services, lack of available occupational therapy services for patients and unintentional fraud or abuse; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the delivery of the best and most affordable medical care to the citizens of this state who receive Medicare assistance, the current Medicare Regulations must be revised to allow Occupational Therapists to stand alone when providing patient care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact laws or otherwise cause the United States Department of Health and Human Services to revise the current Medicare Regulations to allow Occupational Therapists to function as a primary admitting discipline when orders are received for home health services.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 30th day of May,  
1997.

Speaker

of the House of  
Representatives