

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact laws or otherwise cause the Health Care Financing Administration to revise the Medicare payment structure for telemedicine services; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, "telemedicine" is defined to mean the use of electronic communication networks for the transmission of information and data related to the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the development of telemedicine services in the state is an important link in providing access to patients who might otherwise not be able to obtain medical services because of transportation and other issues; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine is an efficient means of distributing medical technology and improving the quality of care in rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, a well developed telemedicine infrastructure can play a significant part in the economic development of rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, the state has taken steps through the establishment of a Telemedicine Advisory Council to study the barriers to the development of effective telemedicine services in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Telemedicine Advisory Council was given the responsibility to advise the Governor and the Legislature regarding needed changes and improvements in public policy relating to telemedicine services in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Telemedicine Advisory Council has identified as the most critical barrier to the development of telemedicine services,

the failure of the federal Health Care Financing Administration to provide, through the Medicare system, an adequate payment system to health care providers for telemedicine services; and

WHEREAS, the investment necessary to access and provide telemedicine services is costly and the inadequate Medicare payment system is discouraging the investment in and the use of telemedicine services by health care providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact laws or otherwise cause the Health Care Financing Administration to revise the current Medicare payment structure to make appropriate payments to health care providers that would encourage the development and use of telemedicine technology.

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 5th day of April, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

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President of the Senate