

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1005

By: Stanley and Hiett

A Resolution urging Congress to enact certain outpatient prescription drug coverage benefit program as part of the Medicare program; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the increased use of new and improved prescription drugs has changed the health care delivery system for many Oklahomans across the state; and

WHEREAS, the use of these new and improved prescription drugs can improve the quality of life for many Oklahomans, allowing them to live healthier, longer, and more productive lives; and

WHEREAS, since Medicare was enacted, only two-thirds of the Medicare population has some form of prescription drug coverage thereby leaving one-third of Medicare beneficiaries with practically no coverage at all; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress did not enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit program thus leaving many people, including the elderly and disabled populations, without appropriate drug therapy treatment and preventing these persons from being provided prescription drugs at affordable costs; and

WHEREAS, the private sector can provide in most instances affordable prescription drug coverage to meet the needs of certain populations that have chronic diseases by coordinating care by means of disease management, drug utilization review, and patient education programs, all of which may aid in reducing medical errors and promoting a better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, because Congress has failed to implement comprehensive reform to Medicare, states must use limited resources to help seniors and disabled persons with prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office and the United States Department of Health and Human Services have estimated that there are thousands of Medicare beneficiaries in Oklahoma that rely on the Medicaid program for prescription drug benefits; and

WHEREAS, these organizations have estimated that for Oklahoma there could be a savings of almost Seventy-six Million Dollars in Medicaid funds over a period from 2005 through 2012 if Congress would enact the long-overdue Medicare prescription drug benefit program; and

WHEREAS, due to the fiscal crisis facing our nation and state, the time has come to implement effective programs such as the

prescription drug benefit program to assist the Medicare population thereby giving many persons access to needed prescription drugs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Congress to enact a financially sustainable, voluntary, universal, and privately administered outpatient prescription drug coverage program to be part of the federal Medicare program.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives