

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1079

By: Shelton

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution encouraging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend certain deadline; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, beginning on November 15, 2005, people with Medicare were given an opportunity to select a prescription drug plan known as Medicare Part D; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D began January 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the transfer to Part D of "dual eligibles," the approximately 6.4 million people with Medicare who were getting their prescriptions through Medicaid prior to January 1, 2006, left many seniors with no payment source for their prescriptions; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty states have taken emergency action to ensure that dual eligibles will continue to receive their prescriptions until they can be successfully transitioned to Part D; and

WHEREAS, the amount of information available to seniors to help them select the appropriate drug plan for them is overwhelming; and

WHEREAS, the confusion extends to physicians and pharmacists who have a difficult time accessing the Medicare Part D formularies; and

WHEREAS, many seniors either unknowingly selected or were randomly assigned to plans without regard to a plan's formulary; and

WHEREAS, May 15, 2006, is the end of the open enrollment period for Part D and is the last day an individual can switch plans if they enrolled in 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend the deadline for enrolling in a plan or changing to another plan to August 1, 2006.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

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