

1-1 By: Capelo (Senate Sponsor - Van de Putte) H.C.R. No. 101  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2003;  
1-3 May 20, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Health  
1-4 and Human Services; May 24, 2003, rereferred to Committee on  
1-5 Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; May 26, 2003, reported  
1-6 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 26, 2003, sent  
1-7 to printer.)

1-8 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-9 WHEREAS, Advances in the effectiveness of prescriptive  
1-10 medication have substantially improved the quality of health care  
1-11 in the United States; a key component of preventive health care,  
1-12 prescription drugs help patients live healthier, longer, and more  
1-13 productive lives without the need for costly long-term acute care;  
1-14 and

1-15 WHEREAS, Since the passage of the Social Security Act of  
1-16 1965, which originally authorized Medicare, the increased use of  
1-17 new and improved prescription drugs has changed the delivery of  
1-18 health care in the United States; nonetheless, of the more than 40  
1-19 million people enrolled in Medicare, one-third have no prescription  
1-20 drug coverage, and the limited coverage available to the remaining  
1-21 two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries is often inadequate to meet  
1-22 their needs; and

1-23 WHEREAS, Comprehensive reform of the Medicare program is  
1-24 necessary to provide affordable care for the elderly and disabled  
1-25 who suffer from chronic disease and comorbidity; the private sector  
1-26 has established a model for successful reforms by negotiating  
1-27 discounts on prescription drugs and by coordinating care with  
1-28 disease management, drug utilization review, and patient education  
1-29 programs, all of which aid in ameliorating medical problems; and

1-30 WHEREAS, Despite the growing needs of the Medicare  
1-31 population, the United States Congress has thus far failed to  
1-32 remedy the inadequacies of the Medicare program; effective reform  
1-33 would adopt the successful strategies of the private sector and use  
1-34 the marketplace to foster competition among private plans,  
1-35 maintaining the financial viability of the program and offering  
1-36 greater choice of quality coverage to seniors and the disabled; and

1-37 WHEREAS, Instead, the lack of a prescription drug benefit in  
1-38 particular has forced states to supplement Medicare by providing  
1-39 medicine to vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries through state  
1-40 Medicaid programs; this "dually eligible" population, those who  
1-41 qualify for federal Medicare and state Medicaid, accounts for 42  
1-42 percent of Medicaid drug expenditures nationwide; and

1-43 WHEREAS, The situation is critical in Texas, where the  
1-44 Congressional Budget Office reported the enactment of a Medicare  
1-45 drug benefit would mean a savings of nearly \$2 billion in Medicaid  
1-46 funds between 2005 and 2012; alarmingly, the costs to state  
1-47 Medicaid programs are expected to increase as the non-elderly  
1-48 disabled and the elderly over age 85 who are most likely to be  
1-49 dually eligible are the fastest growing populations within  
1-50 Medicare; and

1-51 WHEREAS, With state Medicaid programs already facing serious  
1-52 budgetary constraints that threaten to restrict patients' access to  
1-53 needed medical care and prescription drugs, it is more important  
1-54 than ever that the congress enact a Medicare prescription drug  
1-55 benefit as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

1-56 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-57 hereby respectfully request that the Congress of the United States  
1-58 enact financially sustainable, voluntary, universal, and privately  
1-59 administered outpatient prescription drug coverage as part of the  
1-60 federal Medicare program; and, be it further

1-61 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
1-62 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
1-63 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
1-64 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the

2-1 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
2-2 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
2-3 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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