

By: Nevárez

H.C.R. No. 32

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Many Americans living with speech and communication  
2 disabilities rely on speech-generating devices to transmit  
3 messages to loved ones and care providers; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2015, the U.S. Congress increased the  
5 accessibility of speech-generating devices by passing the Steve  
6 Gleason Act, which created a temporary exception to a rental cap  
7 placed on durable medical equipment by the Medicare program; before  
8 this legislation was enacted, beneficiaries of SGDs were required  
9 to rent such devices for a 13-month period before ownership, and  
10 Medicare funding ceased if a patient took up residence at a nursing  
11 home, hospice, or hospital during that time; and

12           WHEREAS, Under the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017,  
13 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act would be amended to make  
14 permanent the removal of the SGD rental cap; the three-year  
15 exception is currently scheduled to expire in October 2018, which  
16 would severely limit those suffering from such neurodegenerative  
17 diseases as ALS, Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis from  
18 maintaining long-term use of technology that affords them the  
19 ability to communicate; and

20           WHEREAS, Speech-generating devices have allowed some of the  
21 most vulnerable among us to experience a greater quality of life,  
22 and it is imperative for the federal government to preserve the  
23 Medicare rental cap exception in order to prevent any disruption in  
24 access to such vital resources; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
2 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the United States  
3 Congress to pass the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017; and,  
4 be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
6 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
7 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
9 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
10 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
11 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.