

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2007-001

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URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
STUDY THE IMPACTS OF MEDICARE PART D ON MEDICAID  
RECIPIENTS; TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS FOR ENSURING THAT  
MEDICAID RECIPIENTS RECEIVE FULL MEDICARE PART D  
COVERAGE; AND TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATING  
THE PUBLIC REGARDING MEDICARE PART D.

WHEREAS, many citizens who had for many years received prescription drug  
coverage through Medicaid have not received sufficient, effective information about the  
coverage they should now be receiving under Medicare Part D; and

WHEREAS, many citizens do not understand who to contact regarding Medicare  
Part D coverage and find themselves caught in the gaps between state agencies dealing  
with Medicaid programs, federal agencies dealing with Medicare programs, and private  
entities offering Medicare Part D coverage; and

WHEREAS, information concerning the complex relations among state, federal,  
and private entities involved in Medicare Part D has not been effectively disseminated,  
especially in rural areas where senior citizens have limited access to information  
regarding changes in their medical and pharmaceutical programs; and

WHEREAS, many citizens remain unaware of such potentially serious economic  
impacts as the "donut hole" in the Medicare Part D program; and

WHEREAS, improvements in education and continuing access to information  
about major changes in health care coverage are vital for our most vulnerable citizens,

NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON  
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY:

That the Arkansas Congressional Delegation urge the United States Congress to:  
(1) Study the impacts of Medicare Part D on Medicaid recipients;

1                   (2) Improve the process for ensuring that Medicaid recipients receive full  
2 Medicare Part D coverage; and

3                   (3) Improve programs for educating the public regarding Medicare Part  
4 D.

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6                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy of  
7 this resolution shall be transmitted to each member of the Arkansas Congressional  
8 Delegation.

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10 Respectfully Submitted,

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14 Senator Jack Critcher  
15 District 12

Representative Eddie Cooper  
District 71

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2 Filed: 5/15/2007

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