

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001

HR 1029

4
5 By: Representative Broadway

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
10 STUDY THE DIFFERENT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAMS
11 AROUND THE COUNTRY AND REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE
12 HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE
13 AND LABOR.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
17 SERVICES TO STUDY THE DIFFERENT
18 PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAMS AROUND THE
19 COUNTRY AND REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE
20 HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
21 HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR.

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24 Whereas, the State of Arkansas has the 9th highest rate of persons aged
25 65 or over in the nation and the 2nd highest rate of persons aged 65 and over
26 below the poverty level; and

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28 Whereas, even though the State is planning to devote a significant
29 portion of its share of tobacco settlement money to a prescription drug
30 program for our low income elderly population, it will not be enough to cover
31 100% of the senior citizens needing assistance; and

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33 Whereas, the House of Representatives is concerned with the escalating
34 prices of prescription drugs and its effect on our senior citizens of this
35 State; and

1 Whereas, many other states are initiating programs to assist their low-
2 income elderly at little or no cost to the state,

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4 NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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8 That the Department of Human Services is requested to thoroughly study
9 different prescription drug programs being introduced around the country in
10 order to evaluate their potential effectiveness for Arkansas. These programs
11 include, but should not be limited to:

12 (1) The possibility of forming a coalition with surrounding states to
13 see whether aggregating pharmaceutical purchasing could lower costs for state
14 funded programs and low-income elderly population;

15 (2) The possibility of obtaining a waiver from the federal Health Care
16 Financing Administration to extend Medicaid drug prices to our low-income
17 elderly population; and

18 (3) The possibility of creating a buyer's club where our low-income
19 elderly population could join and receive discounts at participating
20 pharmacies and mail order services.

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Services is
23 requested to report its findings to the House Interim Committee on Public
24 Health, Welfare and Labor no later than May 1, 2001.

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief
27 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy to the Director
28 of the Department of Human Services.

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