

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

MEDICARE: Memorializes the United States Congress to preserve patient access to physician care by reforming the Medicare physician payment system

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to preserve
3 patient access to physician care by enacting systemic reform to the Medicare
4 physician payment system and providing an annual inflationary update to physician
5 fees based on the Medicare Economic Index for Medicare physician services.

6 WHEREAS, elderly and disabled patients deserve access to physicians with
7 specialized training and rely on Medicare to supplement the cost of specialized health care;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, individuals who depend on Medicare are at serious risk of losing access
10 to physician care; and

11 WHEREAS, physicians are the only healthcare provider type whose Medicare
12 payments do not automatically receive an annual inflationary update; and

13 WHEREAS, Medicare payments to physicians have been steadily declining relative
14 to inflation and have lagged behind the rate of inflation growth by twenty-six percent since
15 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, physicians are struggling to keep their practices open due to inflation
17 and burnout from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, there have been three consecutive cuts to Medicare within the past three
19 years totaling a ten percent cost reduction; and

20 WHEREAS, the lack of adequate reimbursement and rising practice costs may force
21 physicians to stop treating Medicare patients or close their practices permanently; and

1 WHEREAS, current policies disproportionately impact small, independent, and rural
2 physician practices, as well as those treating low-income or historically minoritized or
3 marginalized patient communities.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to preserve
6 patient access to physician care by enacting systemic reform to the Medicare physician
7 payment system and providing an annual inflationary update to physician fees based on the
8 Medicare Economic Index for Medicare physician services.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 governor, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
11 States Congress, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 104 Original

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