

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE