

S 4/2/02 adoption

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

BY LUNDBY

A Concurrent Resolution supporting enactment of Medicare coverage of oral cancer drugs.

WHEREAS, cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the State of Iowa and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, cancer is disproportionately a disease of the elderly, with more than half of all cancer diagnoses occurring in persons age sixty-five or older, who are dependent on the federal Medicare program for provision of cancer care; and

WHEREAS, while treatment with anticancer drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care and elderly cancer patients must have access to potentially life-extending drug therapy, the Medicare program's coverage of drugs is limited to injectable drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable version; and

WHEREAS, the nation's investment in biomedical research has begun to bear fruit with a compelling array of new oral anticancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective, and more cost-effective than existing therapies, but, because such drugs do not have an injectable equivalent, they are not covered by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, noncoverage of these important new products leaves many Medicare beneficiaries confronted with the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by the program;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral  
3 anticancer drugs leaves at-risk many program  
4 beneficiaries suffering from blood-related cancers  
5 such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, as well as  
6 cancers of the breast, lung, and prostate; and

7 WHEREAS, certain members of the United States  
8 Congress have recognized the necessity of Medicare  
9 coverage for all oral anticancer drugs and introduced  
10 legislation to achieve that result; NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly  
13 of the State of Iowa respectfully urges the United  
14 States Congress to adopt legislation requiring the  
15 Medicare program to cover all oral anticancer drugs;  
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
18 Resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to  
19 the President of the United States, the President of  
20 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
21 States House of Representatives, the United States  
22 secretary of Health and Human Services, the  
23 Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
24 Services of the United States Department of Health and  
25 Human Services, and the members of Iowa's  
26 congressional delegation.

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