

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1845

A RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States  
regarding the availability of prescription drugs.

WHEREAS, Sales of prescription drugs are expected to exceed more than \$100 billion this year, and of some 55 million Americans, many are paying the entire amount for their prescription drugs out-of-pocket. Total spending on prescription drugs has increased an average of 12.2% annually since 1993, of which 2.6% is the average in product price increases, 5.8% is attributable to increases in utilization and 3.8% because of new products and therapies, while the consumer price index has increased an average of 2.6% and the average increase for health-care expenditures has been 5.1%. The average cost of new drugs introduced since 1992 is \$71.49, more than twice the average price of \$30.47 for previously existing drugs. As President Clinton has stated, "In a nation bursting with prosperity, no senior should have to choose between buying food and buying medicine." President Bush has declared prescription drug costs a priority and has proposed that medicare provide subsidies to help seniors purchase prescription drugs from competing private insurers and would commit \$48 billion for state grants in the first four years of the program; and

WHEREAS, Pharmaceutical manufacturers spent an estimated \$1.2 billion in 2000 for direct to consumer advertising. While advertising helps educate patients and encourages patient participation in their own health decisions, such advertising tends to increase utilization of pharmaceutical products and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, While drug manufacturers provide discounts to "preferred buyers", community retail pharmacies receive nominal volume discounts resulting in the uninsured paying more for their prescription medication; and

WHEREAS, The pharmaceutical industry spends about 20% of its revenues on research and development, compared to 4% in other industries, with such costs being absorbed mainly by Americans. Unlike some foreign countries, the United States has not chosen to impose price controls on prescription drugs.

WHEREAS, The surge of prescription drug sales on the Internet and through "mail order pharmacies" reflects an attempt by consumers to obtain needed drugs from any source, domestic or foreign, which may place consumers at risk and result in overall poor health outcomes: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we memorialize the Congress of the United States regarding the availability of prescription drugs to individual consumers and the need for assistance and relief from this circumstance; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

Senate Resolution No. 1845 was sponsored by Senator Jim Barnett.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*