

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6013

A RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States to provide ultrasound equipment, operated by qualified personnel, for crisis pregnancy centers and not-for-profit health centers providing services to pregnant women and to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to pay for all oral cancer drugs.

WHEREAS, Technology plays a prominent role in our daily lives, and the use of all available technology should be applied to the provision of medical care to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Through the use of ultrasound technology, properly applied by qualified technicians, it is possible to observe the developing fetus within the womb of a pregnant woman; and

WHEREAS, Crisis pregnancy centers and not-for-profit health care centers throughout the nation provide assistance and counseling to concerned, pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, The use of ultrasound equipment by crisis pregnancy centers and not-for-profit health care centers would assist these organizations in providing information and advice to their clients; and

WHEREAS, The provision of assistance to pregnant women extends to all the states and territories of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the State of Kansas 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 65 or older, many of whom are dependent on the federal Medicare program for provision of cancer care; and

WHEREAS, Since treatment with drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care, elderly cancer patients must have access to potentially life-extending drug therapy, but 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 cancer 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 confronting the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by the program; and

WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral cancer drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries suffering from blood-related cancers like leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma, as well as cancers of the breast, lung and prostate; and

WHEREAS, Certain members of the United States Congress have recognized the necessity of medicare coverage for all oral cancer drugs and introduced legislation in the 107th Congress to achieve that result (H.R. 1624; S. 913): Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That the Kansas legislature urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation to provide federal funding for the placement of ultrasound equipment in crisis pregnancy centers and not-for-profit health care centers providing services to pregnant women and to require operation of such equipment by qualified persons who possess any required certification or licensure to operate such equipment; and

Be it further resolved: That the House of Representatives respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral cancer drugs; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to provide enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and to each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation.