

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1826

A RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to pay for all oral cancer drugs.

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 Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the Senate 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 Secretary of the Senate transmit 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 Secretary of Health and Human Services and each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

Senate Resolution No. 1826 was sponsored by Senators Wagle, Barnett, Haley, Brungardt, Harrington, Jordan, Praeger, Salmans, Steineger, Adkins, Allen, Barone, Brownlee, Clark, Corbin, Donovan, Downey, Emler, Feleciano, Gilstrap, Gooch, Goodwin, Hensley, Huelskamp, Jackson, Jenkins, Kerr, Lee, Lyon, Morris, O'Connor, Oleen, Pugh, Schmidt, Schodorf, Taddiken, Teichman, Tyson, Umbarger and Vratil.

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.*