

2003 DRAFTING REQUEST

Senate Resolution

Received: **04/08/2003**

Received By: **dkennedy**

Wanted: **As time permits**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Robert Cowles (608) 266-0484**

By/Representing: **Jennifer Halbur**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **dkennedy**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: **Health - miscellaneous**

Extra Copies: **RLR**

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email: **Sen.Cowles@legis.state.wi.us**

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Equal Medicare benefits regardless of geography

Instructions:

Same as 03-1483

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/?	dkennedy 04/08/2003	kgilfoy 04/08/2003		_____			
/1			jfrantze 04/08/2003	_____	sbasford 04/08/2003	mbarman 04/15/2003	

FE Sent For:

<END>

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*For
Senate
per
Jennifer*

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1?	dkennedy	1-4/8/03 smg	06/1/8	Selb 4/8			

FE Sent For:

<END>

TELEPHONE DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS

Drafting instructions received by Debora Kennedy.

DATE: 4/8/03

CONVERSATION WITH: Jennifer Halbur

OF: Councils'

TELEPHONE NO:

REGARDING LRB # OR DRAFT TOPIC: -~~1008~~ -1483/2

INSTRUCTIONS: Redraft as a Senate Resolution

DAK note to file: It is necessary to redraft under a new LRB #, because the computer will not change from Sen Jt. Res. to Sen Res.

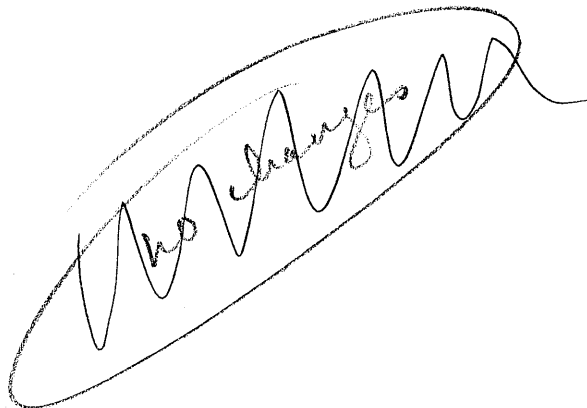
(SOON - In edit 4/2)

2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

2490/1
LRB-1488/2
DAK:kmg:
↑

2003 Senate Resolution

~~2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION~~



1 **Relating to:** urging the Wisconsin congressional delegation to work to enact
2 legislation that would reform the current Medicare system and create a funding
3 method that will dispense equal benefits regardless of geography.

4 Whereas, the archaic and complex Medicare reimbursement formula rewards
5 Medicare providers in areas with high historic health costs while penalizing those
6 providers in low-cost areas for the same services; and

7 Whereas, Wisconsin and other upper midwestern states have traditionally
8 been paid less per Medicare enrollee due to our efficient, low-cost management of
9 health care services; and

10 Whereas, Wisconsin receives the 8th lowest Medicare payments per enrollee in
11 the nation; and

12 Whereas, if Wisconsin received Medicare payments at the national average, an
13 additional \$1,000,000,000 in benefits would flow to our seniors and their health care
14 providers; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin should no longer be a “donor” state by contributing its fair
2 share to the federal program while receiving fewer benefits and lower
3 reimbursements in return; and

4 Whereas, the failure of Wisconsin Medicare to cover the cost of health care for
5 its beneficiaries shifts the cost burden to employers and the privately insured,
6 translating into a hidden tax increase that contributes to rising health insurance
7 premiums and the uninsured population; and

8 Whereas, an increase in the uninsured would have a detrimental impact on the
9 health of many Wisconsin citizens, would drive up health care costs, and could lead
10 to a significant rise in the use of government programs such as BadgerCare or
11 Medical Assistance, thus requiring additional funding from Wisconsin taxpayers;
12 and

13 Whereas, another practical result of this payment inequity is that Wisconsin’s
14 seniors are denied access to the broad range of affordable benefits and services that
15 seniors in many other states take for granted; and

16 Whereas, in places where reimbursement rates are high, such as Florida,
17 Medicare health maintenance organizations can offer their plans without a
18 premium, while in Wisconsin the Medicare population has limited access to health
19 maintenance organization care; and

20 Whereas, Wisconsin’s hospitals are paid 14% less than their costs and thus rank
21 45th nationally in percentage of costs paid for providing services to Medicare
22 beneficiaries; and

23 Whereas, Wisconsin physicians are paid approximately one-third or less of
24 their costs, and Wisconsin consistently ranks nationally as one of the 10 lowest states
25 in Medicare reimbursement for medical services provided; and

1 Whereas, the impact of this inequity has now translated into the delay, by 50%
2 of Wisconsin physicians who treat Medicare patients, in the purchase of new and
3 needed equipment; and

4 Whereas, 15% of physicians have started restricting the number of new
5 Medicare patients that they will accept while another 9% can no longer afford to
6 accept new Medicare patients, despite an aging Wisconsin population; and

7 Whereas, physicians who are still currently seeing Medicare patients have
8 reduced their number of weekly appointments by 18%; and

9 Whereas, the Medicare cuts cost Wisconsin physicians \$40,000,000 last year,
10 forcing 6% of physicians to close their private practices because they could no longer
11 cover their overhead costs and pay their staff; and

12 Whereas, the impact of this inequity means the poor, disabled, and elderly will
13 face serious challenges trying to access care; and

14 Whereas, the impact of this inequity threatens the viability of our health care
15 providers, especially in rural Wisconsin where Medicare enrollees typically
16 constitute over 50% of a hospital's costs; and

17 Whereas, allowing the Medicare reimbursement formula to exist in its current
18 form will guarantee even greater cost-shifting, unending double-digit health
19 insurance premium increases, an increase in the uninsured, a continued decrease in
20 physicians accepting Medicare patients, and fewer hospitals; and

21 Whereas, Wisconsin hospitals, physicians, and insurers stand united in their
22 effort to ensure that Wisconsin providers receive the payments that they deserve,
23 and that patients receive the benefits that they deserve; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, ~~the assembly concurring,~~ That the Wisconsin
legislature urges the members of the congressional delegation from this state to work

fix
component
24
25

senate

1 to enact legislation that would reform the current Medicare system and create a
2 funding method that will dispense equal benefits regardless of geography; and, be
3 it further

4 **Resolved, That** the senate chief clerk shall send copies of this ~~joint~~ resolution
5 to the President of the United States, the speaker of the U.S. house of
6 representatives, the president of the U.S. senate, and all of the members of the
7 congressional delegation from this state.

8 (END)



State of Wisconsin

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESEARCH APPENDIX - **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM DRAFTING FILE**

Date Added To File: 04-15-03 (Per DAK)



The drafting file for 2001 LRB _____ has been transferred to the drafting file for 2003 LRB _____

Done gmb

This cover sheet, the final request sheet and the final version of the 2001 draft were copied on yellow paper, and returned to the original 2001 drafting file.

For research purposes, because the attached 2001 draft was incorporated into a new 2003 draft, this cover sheet and the complete drafting file was transferred, as a separate appendix, to the 2003 drafting file. If introduced this section will be scanned and added, as a separate appendix, to the electronic drafting file folder.

The drafting file for 2003 LRB ~~1608~~ ^{-1483/2} has been copied/added to the drafting file for 2003 LRB 2490

For research purposes, because the attached 2003 draft was incorporated into another 2003 draft, the attached drafting file was copied on yellow paper (darkened/auto centered/reduced to 90%), and added, as a appendix, to the new 2003 drafting file. If introduced this section will be scanned and added, as a separate appendix, to the electronic drafting file folder.

This cover sheet was copied on yellow paper and added to rear of the original 2003 drafting file. The drafting file was then returned, intact, to its folder and filed.