

2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

April 20, 2007 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, ROBSON, LEHMAN, TAYLOR, SULLIVAN, DECKER, LASSA, VINEHOUT, KREITLOW, ERPENBACH, COGGS, BRESKE, PLALE, RISSER, MILLER, CARPENTER, WIRCH and JAUCH, cosponsored by Representatives NELSON, SOLETSKI, GRIGSBY, BOYLE, SHILLING, PARISI, TOLES, BERCEAU, VRUWINK, ZEPNICK, KREUSER, STASKUNAS, KRUSICK, MOLEPSKE, TURNER, GRONEMUS, VAN AKKEREN, BLACK, JORGENSEN, SEIDEL, HINTZ, YOUNG, BENEDICT, SINICKI and SCHNEIDER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** urging the president to extend SeniorCare.

2 Whereas, Wisconsin's congressional delegation has made great strides to save
3 SeniorCare, Wisconsin's highly successful prescription drug program for seniors,
4 and should be duly thanked for their efforts to save the program; and

5 Whereas, SeniorCare is set to expire on June 30, 2007, unless the federal
6 government grants the state's request for a three-year waiver to continue the
7 program; and

8 Whereas, many of SeniorCare's current 105,000 beneficiaries, and an untold
9 number of future beneficiaries, may face undue hardship if the program were to end;
10 and

11 Whereas, in most cases, SeniorCare provides better coverage, is less expensive,
12 and is much easier to apply for than the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug
13 benefit; and

1 Whereas, unlike Medicare Part D, SeniorCare negotiates lower prices with
2 drug companies and actually costs taxpayers much less than the federal program;
3 and

4 Whereas, the federal government spends on average about \$617 per
5 SeniorCare participant, almost half as much as the \$1,174 it spends per Medicare
6 Part D participant; and

7 Whereas, SeniorCare has already saved Wisconsin seniors and taxpayers
8 hundreds of millions of dollars since its inception in 2002, reducing prescription drug
9 costs for more than 100,000 seniors by almost \$200 million in state fiscal year 2006
10 alone; and

11 Whereas, according to an analysis by AARP Wisconsin, more than 94 percent
12 of seniors are better off on SeniorCare than they would be under Medicare Part D
13 because the copayments are lower and the coverage is more comprehensive; and

14 Whereas, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle submitted a request to the U.S.
15 Department of Health and Human Services on October 23, 2006, to extend the state's
16 SeniorCare Pharmacy Plus Waiver for three years to June 30, 2010; now, therefore,
17 be it

18 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature of
19 the state of Wisconsin urges President George W. Bush to reverse U.S. Department
20 of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt's decision not to extend the
21 federal waiver that funds Wisconsin's SeniorCare program; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
23 resolution to the president.

24

(END)