2007 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 50

April 30, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives TAUCHEN, MURSAU, NYGREN, NERISON, DAVIS, M. WILLIAMS, MOULTON, VAN ROY, MURTHA, KREUSER, RICHARDS, PETERSEN, GRONEMUS, A. OTT, WASSERMAN, NELSON, WIECKERT, HINTZ, PETROWSKI, SEIDEL, GUNDERSO ON, STEINBRINK, SMITH, HIXSON, HINES, HRAYCHUCK, KRUSICK, WOOD, HEBL, SHILLING, SHERIDAN, VRUWINK, SOLETSKI, GARTHWAITE, MASON, J. FITZGERALD, HUEBSCH, HILGENBERG, MOLEPSKE, SINICKI, SUDER, RHOADES, TOWNSEND, MONTGOMERY, HUBLER, J. OTT, BOYLE, STASKUNAS, BERCEAU and MEYER, cosponsored by Senators LALE, COWLES, DARLING, CARPENTER, KAPANKE, LAS SA, SCHULTZ and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: memorializing Congress to approve SeniorCare.

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

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

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

Whereas, in most cases, SeniorCare provides better coverage, is less expensive, and is much easier to apply for than the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit; and
Whereas, unlike Medicare Part D, SeniorCare negotiates lower prices with
drug companies and actually costs taxpayers much less than the federal program;
and

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of
the state of Wisconsin calls on Congress to immediately approve legislation to
continue SeniorCare and urges President George W. Bush and U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt to support and extend the
federal waiver that funds Wisconsin's SeniorCare program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
resolution to the president and secretary of the U.S. senate, to the speaker and chief
clerk of the U.S. house of representatives, and to each member of the congressional
delegation from this state attesting to the adoption of this joint resolution by the 2007
legislature of the state of Wisconsin.

(END)