

1                   **RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE**  
2                               **ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR MEDICARE**  
3                               **PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE COUNSELING**

4   2006 GENERAL SESSION

5   STATE OF UTAH

6                               **Chief Sponsor: Tim M. Cosgrove**

7                               Senate Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

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9           **LONG TITLE**

10   **General Description:**

11               This joint resolution of the Legislature urges adequate federal funding for Medicare  
12   prescription drug coverage counseling.

13   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14               This resolution:

15               ▶ urges the United States Congress to appropriate adequate funds to compensate the  
16   State Health Insurance Information Program that provides counseling for the  
17   Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

18   **Special Clauses:**

19               None

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21   *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

22               WHEREAS, Medicare Part D, a prescription drug benefit program, has an enrollment  
23   deadline of May 15, 2006;

24               WHEREAS, many senior citizens and their families find the options and enrollment  
25   procedure confusing;

26               WHEREAS, approximately 12% of senior citizens who were supposed to be  
27   automatically enrolled January 1st encountered problems with their coverage;



28 WHEREAS, the Health Insurance Information Program provided by the Area Agencies  
29 on Aging through the Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services has a responsibility for  
30 providing Medicare Part D counseling to the senior citizens in their service area;

31 WHEREAS, to assure effectiveness, client counseling occurs face to face and can take  
32 up to two hours, depending on the complexity of client needs, including the type of medication  
33 needed;

34 WHEREAS, these programs have received little if any additional federal funds to  
35 provide this service;

36 WHEREAS, the number of requests for assistance has more than quadrupled since  
37 October 2005, with the increase being for requests for information and assistance with the  
38 Medicare Part D enrollment;

39 WHEREAS, the majority of the Area Agencies on Aging, in responding to the requests  
40 for Medicare Part D assistance, have already expended their Health Insurance Information  
41 funds six months into the fiscal year;

42 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has appropriated funds to promote the enrollment  
43 of Medicare Part D; and

44 WHEREAS, although the Federal Government has indicated that the Utah Department  
45 of Health will receive a refund for enrolling those who are eligible for both Medicare and  
46 Medicaid, there are still several thousand senior citizens who do not have dual eligibility, have  
47 not yet enrolled, and will seek assistance from the Area Agencies on Aging:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
49 urges the United States Congress to appropriate adequate funds to compensate the State Health  
50 Insurance Information Program that provides counseling for the Medicare Prescription Drug  
51 Program.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the majority  
53 leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
54 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, each of Utah's Area Agencies on  
55 Aging, and the Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services.

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-31-06 1:26 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note****Bill Number HJR026****Resolution Urging Congress to Appropriate Adequate Funds for Medicare  
Prescription Drug Coverage Counseling***10-Feb-06**11:15 AM*

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**State Impact**

Mailing requirements of this resolution can be handled within existing budgets.

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**Individual and Business Impact**

No fiscal impact.

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**