

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3028
(Representatives Porter, Carlisle, Dosch, Drovdal, Severson)
(Senator Kilzer)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to increase Medicare reimbursement for health care providers, to use an appropriate amount of the federal budget to equalize Medicare rates within North Dakota and within the nation, and to increase funding of the Medicare ambulance reimbursement fee schedule.

WHEREAS, North Dakota's Medicare recipients are entitled to the same health care services as other senior citizens in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Medicare has historically reimbursed rural health care providers at a considerably lower rate than urban health care providers; and

WHEREAS, there is great disparity of reimbursement among North Dakota providers; and

WHEREAS, home health care is an integral service in North Dakota which allows individuals to be expediently discharged from acute care facilities, thereby allowing individuals to be cared for at home and to avoid nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is implementing an ambulance reimbursement fee schedule that will negatively affect ambulance services across the state; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for access to emergency care and primary care in rural North Dakota which is jeopardized by inadequate Medicare reimbursement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to increase Medicare reimbursement for health care providers, to use an appropriate amount of the federal budget to equalize Medicare rates within North Dakota and within the nation, and to increase Medicare ambulance reimbursement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly invites the United States Senate Finance Committee to meet in North Dakota to address these concerns related to Medicare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the chairman of the United States Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State