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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3038

2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3038

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3038

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 6, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2900

Committee Clerk Signature

Judith Schock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: We will open HCR 3038.

Representative Shirley Meyer, District 36: See attached testimony. The elderly can not afford many of the prescription drugs. They often cut them in half or take one every other day, or go into the nursing home. There is a concern with the rising cost of drugs; they are falling into the programs like Medicare.

Linda Wurtz AARP of ND: Many of the elderly can not afford the prescription drugs. We urge your support.

Chairman Price: Anyone else to testify in favor of HCR 3038? Anyone in opposition? If not we will close the hearing on HCR 3038.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3038

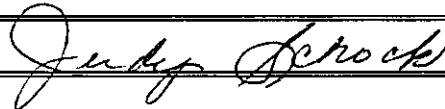
House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 7, 2007

Recorder Job Number: no minutes recorded

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Price: take out HCR 3038 and we will take action on the bill.

Representative Porter: has proposed amendments and goes over them with the committee and the three whereas they want added. See attached proposed amendments.

The committee goes into discussion on the whereas and who should be added and who should not be added. Some felt the Attorney General should not be added.

Representative Kaldor: opposes the amendments

Representative Potter: doesn't like the partisan bills.

Committee discussed Medicare.

Representative Porter moves a recommended or change, **Representative Hatlestad** seconds the motion. The vote was 11 yeas, 1 nay and 0 absent.

Representative Conrad moves a reamend second whereas, seconded by **Representative Potter**. The vote was 11 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 absent. **Representative Schneider** moves a reamend added, seconded by **Representative Conrad**, the verbal vote was 12 yeas.

Representative Porter moves a do pass as amended consent calendar, seconded by

Representative Hatlestad. The vote was 11 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 absent. **Representative Damschen** will carry to the floor.

Date: 7/
Roll Call Vote #: /

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES HCR 3038 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken None Recommended Order Change

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Hatlestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman			Kari L Conrad		
Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman			Lee Kaldor		✓
Chuck Damschen			Louise Potter		
Patrick R. Hatlestad			Jasper Schneider		
Curt Hofstad					
Todd Porter					
Gerry Uglem					
Robin Weisz					

Total (Yes) 11 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 1 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/7
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES HB 3038 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken re-amend 2nd whereas

Motion Made By Rep. Conrad Seconded By Rep. Potter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price – Chairman			Kari L Conrad		
Vonnie Pietsch – Vice Chairman			Lee Kaldor		
Chuck Damschen			Louise Potter		
Patrick R. Hatlestad			Jasper Schneider		
Curt Hofstad					
Todd Porter		✓			
Gerry Uglem					
Robin Weisz					

Total (Yes) 11 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 1 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/7
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES HB 3038 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amend added

Motion Made By Rep. Schneider Seconded By Rep. Conrad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price – Chairman			Kari L Conrad		
Vonnie Pietsch – Vice Chairman			Lee Kaldor		
Chuck Damschen			Louise Potter		
Patrick R. Hatlestad			Jasper Schneider		
Curt Hofstad					
Todd Porter					
Gerry Uglem					
Robin Weisz					

Total (Yes) 12 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 0 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/7
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES HCR 3038 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken As Pass as Amended Consent Calendar

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Hallestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman	✓		Kari L Conrad	✓	
Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman	✓		Lee Kaldor	✓	
Chuck Damschen	✓		Louise Potter	✓	
Patrick R. Hallestad	✓		Jasper Schneider	✓	
Curt Hofstad	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Gerry Uglem	✓				
Robin Weisz		✓			

Total (Yes) 6 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 1 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Damschen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3038: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3038 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "the" insert "efforts of the President of the United States, the" and replace "Delegation's efforts" with "Delegation, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and United States Attorney Drew Wrigley"

Page 1, line 2, after "drugs" insert "safer and"

Page 1, line 3, replace "make" with "study the lifesaving value, affordability, accessibility, and efficacy of" and remove "more affordable"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has significantly led the federal effort to create and sign into law the Medicaid Part D program that has brought the total number of people on Medicare who receive comprehensive prescription drug coverage to more than 29 million; and"

Page 1, line 7, remove "high"

Page 1, line 8, remove "bring drug pricing in the United States in line with"

Page 1, line 9, remove "lower prices offered in other countries and supporting efforts to" and remove "lower-priced"

Page 1, line 11, replace "has a long record of supporting" with "supports"

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"WHEREAS, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has worked tirelessly over the past six years to investigate, prosecute, and seek convictions of drug pushers and prescription drug counterfeiters; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, through bipartisan laws passed by the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly, has provided over \$11 million in savings to over 18,000 of our state's elderly and Medicaid-eligible residents by helping those residents gain access to free and reduced cost pharmaceutical drugs; and

WHEREAS, United States Attorney Drew Wrigley has worked tirelessly to investigate, prosecute, and seek convictions of drug pushers and prescription drug counterfeiters; and"

Page 1, line 14, remove "inadequate"

Page 1, line 15, replace "increased" with "decreased" and remove ", such as increased emergency mental health services"

Page 1, line 16, remove "and increased nursing home admissions"

Page 1, line 17, remove "rising" and replace "have" with "produce"

Page 1, line 22, after the second "the" insert "efforts of the President of the United States, the"

Page 1, line 23, replace "Delegation's efforts" with "Delegation, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, and United States Attorney Drew Wrigley" and after "drugs" insert "safer and"

Page 1, line 24, replace "make" with "study the lifesaving value, affordability, accessibility, and efficacy of" and remove "more affordable"

Page 2, line 2, after "to" insert "the President of the United States," and after "Delegation" insert ", North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, and United States Attorney Drew Wrigley"

Renumber accordingly

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3038

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3038

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3-19-07

Recorder Job Number: 5262

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K. Monson

Minutes:

Chairman Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on HCR 3038 supporting the efforts to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable.

Senator Heckaman (#23) explained that she was speaking on behalf of Rep. Shirley Meyer who was unable to be present but wanted the committee to have a copy of the original resolution as she had presented and supported it. (Attachment #1)

Linda Johnson Wurtz (AARP) spoke in support of HCR 3038. She pointed out that prescription drug prices continue to increase at nearly twice the rate of inflation in our country. The national priority of AARP is to maintain costs of prescription drugs so they support this resolution.

Senator Dever noted that the initial resolution recognized the democrat members of congress and the second version was to acknowledge the efforts of republicans Poolman, Stenehjem, and Bush. He asked if it would be a further enhancement if it was amended to include the efforts of the legislature that created the prescription section through bipartisan efforts.

Ms. Wurtz said they appreciate the efforts of all of those who try to put conversation forward to contain costs in prescription drugs. Absolutely, all of those people should be recognized.

Senator J. Lee referred to an article she had seen that said the congressional budget office has reported Medicare Part D has cost a lot less than it was originally estimated (meter 03:52). Cal Rolfson (PhRMA) testified in support of HCR 3038. He thought the problem of the issue with the original resolution is that it was clearly intended to be partisan. He understood the amended version is intended to make it show credit where there are others deserving credit. Senator Heckaman had a problem with line 19. When dealing with a resolution that talks about prescription drug safety, she had difficulty connecting that with drug misuse. She asked him if he approved of that line.

Mr. Rolfson replied that he did approve of the language because the illegal use of drugs is probably what helps drive some of the costs of drugs. (Meter 07:00)

Senator J. Lee said that the last paragraph on the first page ought to apply to Rep. Devlin because it was through his efforts that the prescription connection was originally proposed and is administered through the insurance department.

Mr. Rolfson said she was absolutely right.

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on HCR 3038 was closed.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3038

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3-20-07

Recorder Job Number: 5337

Committee Clerk Signature *Mary K Monson*

Minutes:

Chairman Senator J. Lee opened HCR 3038.

Senator Heckaman moved a Do Not Pass on HCR 3038.

Senator Erbele seconded the motion.

A short committee discussion indicated that there was dislike for the resolution mixing prescription drugs with drug abuse. Also, it was felt it was more of a thank you note. They couldn't anticipate any good coming as a result of the resolution.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. Motion carried. Carrier is Senator Dever.

Date: 3-20-07

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3038

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Heckaman Seconded By Sen. Erbele

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman 1	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair 2	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Dever.

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 20, 2007 10:18 a.m.

Module No: SR-52-5723
Carrier: Dever
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3038, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HCR 3038 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HCR 3038

Testimony on HCR 3038
Shirley Meyer
District 36, State Representative

Madam Chairman and committee members HCR 3038 wants to reinforce the North Dakota Congressional Delegation's efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable not only to North Dakotans, but to all Americans.

Last year Senator Conrad sponsored an event in Dickinson to discuss elder care issues, and I don't think I realized until that time what a serious impact the high cost of drugs was having on the elderly population in our state. Many stories were relayed concerning the ramification and consequences of the high prescription drug costs.

Doctors were treating people for various diseases and giving them monthly prescriptions. When the diseases or illness would get worse or the prescription drugs would not be as effective as the health professionals had hoped, that's when many of their patients confessed that because of living on a fixed income they were either cutting their pills in half or taking them every other day. This was leading to increased nursing home admissions and emergency mental health services.

We also heard of multiple trips to Canada and the price discrepancy of the exact same medicines. As one elderly lady stated, "Why do you make me travel all the way to Canada when I could purchase the same drug here if you would just lower the cost?" Rising prescription drug costs in the US are having significant impact on our Medicare recipients, state and federal Medicaid expenditures, CHIPS program expenditures, our elderly, and all uninsured individuals and because of this I would encourage you to support the efforts of our North Dakota Congressional Delegation by giving HCR 3038 a "Do Pass" recommendation.