

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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By: **Delegates Elliott, Benson, Hubbard, Kullen, Mizeur, Morhaim,
Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Rudolph, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Negotiated Prices for Medicare Part D Drugs**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the United States Congress to pass legislation to require
4 the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical
5 manufacturers the prices that may be charged for Medicare Part D drugs.

6 WHEREAS, The federal Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 prohibits the
7 federal government from negotiating with pharmaceutical manufacturers the prices
8 that may be charged for prescription drugs under the Medicare Part D program; and

9 WHEREAS, A study by Families USA found that prices in Medicare Part D
10 prescription drug plans are on average 58% more for the most commonly prescribed
11 medications than prices paid by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Medicare Part D enrollees must pay the full cost of any
14 prescription drugs they buy once they reach the “doughnut hole” coverage gap; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 12, 2007, the United States House of Representatives
16 passed H.R. 4 to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate
17 with pharmaceutical manufacturers the prices that may be charged to prescription
18 drug plan sponsors and Medicare Advantage plan organizations for Medicare Part D
19 drugs; and

20 WHEREAS, As of June 2006, 183,787 Marylanders were enrolled in a Medicare
21 stand-alone prescription drug plan and, of these, 51,460 had coverage in a plan with a
22 coverage gap; now, therefore, be it



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1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
2 United States Congress should pass legislation requiring the Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers the prices that may
4 be charged to prescription drug plan sponsors and Medicare Advantage plan
5 organizations for Medicare Part D drugs; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.
8 Mikulski, and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
9 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P.
10 Sarbanes, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
11 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
12 20515.