

MICROFILM DIVIDER

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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3030

2001 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3030

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3030

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 12, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape 1	X		0 to 1200
Tape 2	X		0 to 415
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Corinne Boston</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Price, Vice Chairman Devlin, Rep. Dosch, Rep. Galvin, Rep. Klein, Rep. Pollert, Rep. Porter, Rep. Tieman, Rep. Weiler, Rep. Weisz, Rep. Cleary, Rep. Metcalf, Rep. Niemeier, Rep. Sandvig

Chairman Price: Opened hearing on HCR 3030.

Rep. Porter: Presented HCR 3030. Earlier this session we debated a bill that addressed some of the disparities physically dealing with ambulance services. Across the United States there is a great deal of cost shifting within medicine because of the under payment of Medicare and Medicaid. This resolution addresses not only the under payment, but it also goes one step further and addresses the disparity between eastern and western North Dakota in the reimbursement to hospitals. What that cost shifting does is raises the price of doing business to the other insurance companies that are doing business in North Dakota. What this particular measure is doing is asking Congress to fix some of the problems in the federal Medicare system.

Rep. Cleary: Does that mean you don't agree with the federal tax cut?

Rep. Porter: I guess it goes further than that. I don't agree with the balanced budget act of 1997.

Chairman Price: We also have some disparity between Minot and Bismarek, because Bismarek is a metropolitan service area. Would you have any objection if the resolution would address that type of situation?

Rep. Porter: It should address all disparities.

Chairman Price: One of the orthopedic procedures, I think it is hip replacement, there is an \$1,100 difference Minot and Bismarek reimbursement right now.

Porter: Rep. The basic cost of provided service, especially inside the boundaries of North Dakota, if not going regionally, are the same or higher in North Dakota than they would be in other regions. I think that whatever disparities we can address with this resolution that we should take the opportunity to address them.

Chairman Price: Are you aware there are any out there that have anything to do with home health - what has happened under BBA home health has also hurt North Dakota.? If not, can we ask something like that in this resolution?

Rep. Porter: I'm not aware of any other resolutions that are addressing this. The last session they addressed a lot to do with home health. Maybe one of the representatives from BCBS can address the fix that they put back into home health, but if it is not enough of a fix, then absolutely it should be mentioned in this at the same time.

Chairman Price: I know they did make some attempts, but I think some of the per episode payments have been a constant problem.

Rep.. Galvin: Doesn't the reimbursement also affect the ambulance services?

Rep. Porter: Through the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 or 1998, Congress told the Health Care Finance Administration for Medicare to put ambulance services under a fee schedule. That proposed fee schedule is sitting right now kind of in limbo. If that is implemented, it will almost certainly spell the end of ambulance services in the Midwest. What Medicare has decided to do is they took the pot full of money and then took number of calls, divided one into the other without any regard to cost of doing the service or cost of providing that type of service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and said this is just what you're going to get and you're not getting anymore. That kind of cost shift has to go some place, and it is either going to go back to local property taxes or to other patients that aren't on Medicare. It is one of the main reasons for this resolution.

Dan Ulmer: Blue Cross Blue Shield. We support HB 3030. This is a major issue. One of the issues is North Dakota and most of the rural areas are reimbursed at a much lower rates than the rest of the country. It is a rural issue, cost of care issue, it has something to do with the APACE. Example is that on any given procedure North Dakota's average Medicare recipient gets about \$400 a month and about \$800 in Florida. There is a major distinction between the urban and rural states. We could get this changed in the Senate, when you start looking at the country as a whole you have a 100 Senators, but the House is based on population, so when you start looking at the reimbursement rates you've got a really difficult issued because the big states you have the majority of the House you're dealing with. From a political perspective it has been a very difficult thing to get attention to. One of the reasons HBO 1314 came to you folks and resulted in HCR 3030, was affective April 1. The Medicare HIFFA system, are forcing ambulances to accept mandatory assignment, which means that if Rep. Porter goes out and charges a certain level for a given call, and it is less than the cost, if he doesn't accept the assignment then he

could balance bill the remainder to the patient. Under the new mandatory assignment arrangement they cannot balance the bill. The result of that is every time Medicare makes that kind of maneuver, it gets shuffled over to us in the private sector. We have to try and find some way to call attention to this in Congress.

Arnold Thomas: President of the North Dakota Health Care Association. I am in support of HCR 3030. The resolution is about asking the federal government to take a look at the policies behind Medicare. Like every other federal program, treat the seniors the same in terms of those who are providing service to them, and not by some geographical arbitrary circumstances. The other reason we would like you to endorse HCR 3030 is that in 1997 when the Balanced Budget Act was enacted by the Congress there was an estimated reduction in Medicare of approximately, in North Dakota, \$25,000,000. While the politics of the issue were the main focus, the agreement was that there was going to be about a \$25,000,000 reduction in Medicare benefits. Since 1997 what we've been attempting to do is to claim back that overage, and part of that overage is part of the national surplus. That part of what Rep. Porter is tying into with respect to this resolution, and we would concur with that.

Bruce Levi: North Dakota Medical Association. I want to stand in support of the resolution and echo the comments, particularly by Arnold Thomas from the N.D. Health Care Association. I think this is an issue that has long been on the table. The Medical Association over the last few years has been involved with a geographical coalition of states that are in a similar position, looking at this issue, gathering data, and we can share that type of information with the committee.

Chairman Price: Close the hearing on HCR 3030.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3030

Hearing Date February 12, 2001

COMMITTEE WORK:

CHAIRMAN PRICE: HCR 3030. Discussion?

REP. PORTER: After earlier discussion on HCR 3030 I had a set of amendments drawn up.

(Discussed changes in the amendments.)

CHAIRMAN PRICE: Do you want to move the amendments?

REP. PORTER: I would move the amendments.

REP. WEISZ: Second.

CHAIRMAN PRICE: (Committee discussion.) All those in favor signify by saying Aye (14 Yes). We have an amended resolution, what is your wishes?

REP. KLEIN: I motion for a Do Pass.

REP. POLLERT: Second

CHAIRMAN PRICE: Discussion? Take the roll on a **DO PASS as amended.**

14 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT CARRIED BY REP. KLEIN

VK
2/12/01

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HCR 3030

HOUSE HS

2-13-01

Page 1, line 1, remove "rural"

Page 1, line 2, replace "and" with a comma

Page 1, line 3, replace "between eastern and western" with "within" and after "Dakota" insert "and within the nation, and to delay implementation of the proposed Medicare ambulance reimbursement fee schedule"

Page 1, after line 8, insert:

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, Congress is proposing implementation of a Medicare ambulance reimbursement fee schedule that will negatively affect ambulance services across the state; and"

Page 1, line 14, remove "rural" and replace "and" with a comma

Page 1, line 15, replace "between eastern and western" with "within"

Page 1, line 16, after "Dakota" insert "and within the nation, and to delay implementation of the proposed Medicare ambulance reimbursement fee schedule"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-12-01
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3030

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Moved Amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Weisz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Clara Sue Price, Chairman	✓		Rep. Audrey Cleary	✓	
Rep. William Devlin, V, Chairman	✓		Rep. Ralph Metcalf	✓	
Rep. Mark Dosch	✓		Rep. Carol Niemeier	✓	
Rep. Pat Galvin	✓		Rep. Sally Sandvig	✓	
Rep. Frank Klein	✓				
Rep. Chet Pollert	✓				
Rep. Todd Porter	✓				
Rep. Wayne Tieman	✓				
Rep. Dave Weiler	✓				
Rep. Robin Weisz	✓				

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-12-01
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3030

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS as Amended (Consent Calendar)

Motion Made By Rep. Klein Seconded By Rep. Pollert

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Clara Sue Price, Chairman	✓		Rep. Audrey Cleary	✓	
Rep. William Devlin, V, Chairman	✓		Rep. Ralph Metcalf	✓	
Rep. Mark Dosch	✓		Rep. Carol Niemeier	✓	
Rep. Pat Galvin	✓		Rep. Sally Sandvig	✓	
Rep. Frank Klein	✓				
Rep. Chet Pollert	✓				
Rep. Todd Porter	✓				
Rep. Wayne Tieman	✓				
Rep. Dave Weller	✓				
Rep. Robin Weisz	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. Galvin

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3030: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3030 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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2001 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3030

