

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 25

By: Paddack of the Senate

5 and

6 Inman of the House

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution commemorating the 50th
10 anniversary of the creation of Medicare; and
11 directing distribution.

12
13 WHEREAS, on January 7, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson called
14 upon Congress to provide health insurance for older Americans,
15 people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable among us; when
16 President Johnson began this effort, fewer than half of America's
17 older citizens had any form of health insurance. As a result of the
18 bipartisan initiative that is Medicare, 54,000,000 older and
19 disabled Americans have access to guaranteed health benefits,
20 including more than 625,000 Oklahomans; and

21 WHEREAS, Medicare has provided economic security for many aging
22 Americans without families to shoulder the burden of their health
23 care costs along with providing assurance for aging Americans with
24

1 families that are unable to bear the health costs for their older or
2 disabled parents or relatives; and

3 WHEREAS, Medicare has increased access to care and raised life
4 expectancy for older and disabled Americans, decreased poverty among
5 older and disabled Americans, and increased personal economic
6 security for older and disabled Americans and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Medicare has been the most financially conservative
8 health care system in the United States, with administrative costs
9 averaging only 2 percent of costs; and

10 WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, Congress has strengthened
11 Medicare through bipartisan efforts to improve this beneficial
12 program, with significant improvements made under the leadership of
13 Presidents Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W.
14 Bush, and Barack Obama; and

15 WHEREAS, Medicare is an example of a bipartisan solution to a
16 very complex and politically difficult problem and demonstrates
17 that, despite partisan differences, legislators can rise above that
18 culture and those challenges to find common ground and agreement on
19 even the most challenging issues.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
21 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
22 CONCURRING THEREIN:

23 THAT Oklahoma celebrates the 50th anniversary of the creation of
24 Medicare.

1 THAT Oklahoma hereby recognizes the far-reaching value of the
2 health benefits and economic security Medicare has provided to
3 millions of older and disabled Americans, as well as their families.

4 THAT Oklahoma pledges to approach even the most difficult public
5 policy challenges with the spirit of bipartisanship that made
6 Medicare possible 50 years ago.

7 THAT copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of
8 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the members of the
9 Oklahoma congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Department
10 of Health and Human Services, and the Majority and Minority leaders
11 of the United States House of Representatives and the United States
12 Senate.

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