

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R02-1142.01 Kevin Wilson

HJR02-1068

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Jahn, Alexander, Groff, Mace, and Williams S.

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(None),

House Committees

Health, Environment, Welfare, &
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1068

101 **CONCERNING LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE AS A BUDGETARY PRIORITY.**

1 WHEREAS, The number of elderly and disabled Coloradans and
2 United States citizens is dramatically increasing; and

3 WHEREAS, There is an unprecedented need for the delivery of
4 quality long-term care services and programs to a diverse population of
5 over 428,000 individuals; and

6 WHEREAS, The implementation of a 1998 Medicare prospective
7 payment system (PPS) for skilled nursing care (SNF) resulted in cuts far
8 deeper than Congress anticipated; and

9 WHEREAS, The fiscal impact on Colorado of such devastating
10 cuts will be the loss of \$27.4 million in Medicare payments which will
11 directly impact the State of Colorado's frail elderly and disabled
12 populations by jeopardizing the delivery of quality care, and by causing
13 the loss of valuable staff and specialized services; and

14 WHEREAS, The overwhelming 17% Medicare cut will force some

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 long-term care providers into bankruptcy in an uncertain economy,
2 resulting in a loss of quality long-term care resources available to
3 consumers; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to threatening the quality and availability
5 of patient care, cuts this deep will result in a significant loss of jobs in a
6 health care employment sector in which there is a direct correlation
7 between numbers of staff and quality of care; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*
9 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
10 *herein:*

11 (1) That we, the members of the Sixty-third General Assembly,
12 encourage Congress to direct the President of the United States and his
13 administration to halt work on administrative refinements to the resource
14 utilization group system and to redirect resources to the design of a new,
15 reliable patient classification system and SNF payment methodology.

16 (2) That the General Assembly recommends Congress extend the
17 payment add-ons until the new and reliable PPS system is implemented
18 to protect beneficiary access to the Medicare SNF benefit, to stimulate
19 market capitalization, and to allow the SNF sector to regain stability.

20 (3) That the General Assembly urges Congress to reassure capital
21 markets and to announce immediately, preferably in conjunction with the
22 President of the United States and his administration, that the "Medicare
23 cliff", scheduled to take effect October 1, 2002, will be postponed and
24 that payments for Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs will not be cut by 17%
25 this fall.

26 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
27 sent to President George W. Bush and each member of Colorado's
28 congressional delegation.