

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R03-0361.01 Michele Hanigsberg

**HR03-1008**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Butcher**

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**House Committees**

Health, Environment, Welfare, &  
Institutions

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 03-1008**

101     **CONCERNING THE INEQUITIES IN REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS UNDER**  
102             **MEDICARE + CHOICE.**

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1             WHEREAS, There are inequities in Medicare + Choice provider  
2 reimbursement rates across the state of Colorado, which have translated  
3 into gross inequities in the premiums that are paid by seniors in rural  
4 areas of Colorado under Medicare + Choice; and

5             WHEREAS, Currently Medicare + Choice reimbursement rates are  
6 set by county or geographic area based on historic Medicare expenditures  
7 in that area; and

8             WHEREAS, The current methodology for determining  
9 reimbursement rates for Medicare + Choice does not accurately  
10 compensate for the current cost of health care services in these areas  
11 because it does not account for growth in a county's fee-for-service  
12 spending; and

13            WHEREAS, The inequities that exist because of the current  
14 provider reimbursement methodology under Medicare + Choice have  
15 caused the health plans to shift these health care costs to the seniors in  
16 these rural areas; and

17            WHEREAS, Medicare + Choice health plans were initially  
18 intended to be an affordable managed care option under Medicare that  
19 would provide necessary services that were not traditionally covered by  
20 Medicare; and

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           WHEREAS, Seniors throughout rural Colorado can no longer  
2 afford the expensive and inequitable premiums that are being charged by  
3 Medicare + Choice health plans; and

4           WHEREAS, The "Balanced Budget Act of 1997" did establish  
5 provisions to allow a governor to equalize the Medicare + Choice  
6 payment levels across the state; and

7           WHEREAS, Seniors throughout the state of Colorado deserve  
8 affordable health care coverage regardless of whether the senior resides  
9 in a rural or metropolitan county in Colorado; now, therefore,

10           *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth*  
11 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

12           That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the  
13 Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, encourage  
14 Colorado's congressional delegation to support and work to pass  
15 necessary modifications to the current federal Medicare program that will  
16 provide affordable health care coverage to seniors without the inequities  
17 that currently exist under Medicare due to geographic discrepancies.

18           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to  
19 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States  
20 House of Representatives, and to each member of Colorado's delegation  
21 to the United States Congress.