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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 178

Offered January 24, 2000

Encouraging Virginia's aging community, the faith community and other advocacy and health care professional organizations to include information in their publications and activities that would educate their members about Medicaid assistance programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

Patrons—Schrock and Bolling; Delegates: Brink, DeBoer, Hamilton, Melvin and Morgan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the elderly and disabled poor with Medicare health insurance pay a very large proportion of their monthly income on out-of-pocket medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of Virginia's Medicare beneficiaries are low-income; and

WHEREAS, low-income Medicare beneficiaries are less likely to have private supplemental insurance than are higher-income Medicare beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLIB), and Qualifying Individual (QI-1, QI-2) programs are administered through the Department of Medical Assistance Services to help pay the Medicare premiums and cost-sharing requirements for low-income elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, a significant proportion of Virginians eligible for these programs are not enrolled, due in part to a lack of public awareness and a lack of organized outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that community-based efforts have the greatest success in encouraging low-income elderly and disabled individuals to enroll in these programs; and

WHEREAS, the elderly and disabled have regular contact with the aging community, faith community, advocacy groups and various health care professionals that could provide information and direct them to resources for these programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That Virginia's aging community, faith community, advocacy groups, and health care professional organizations are encouraged to: (i) gain knowledge about the benefits and general eligibility requirements for these programs; (ii) educate their members about these programs by including information in their respective publications and other activities; and (iii) encourage enrollment in these programs by eligible elderly and disabled individuals in their communities; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Department of Medical Assistance Services be requested to assist these various organizations in educating their respective members about the Medicaid assistance programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries by providing enrollment and eligibility information, educational materials, and other assistance regarding the programs; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Joint Commission on Health Care distribute copies of this resolution to the various types of organizations identified so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

INTRODUCED

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