

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress of United States to enact legislation that increases physicians' Medicare reimbursement rates and lessens reimbursement rate variation among the states.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to increase reimbursement fees for primary care providers
- Effects of large geographic variations on reimbursement rates in Oregon
- Impact on primary care physicians
- Primary care physicians no longer accepting new Medicare patients

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The federal reimbursement rate for Oregon Medicare patients fails to adequately reimburse physicians, especially primary care providers, for the cost of providing services. Oregon's lower reimbursement rate is due, in part, because of its effective delivery of medical services. Because of the low reimbursement rate, the number of primary care physicians who no longer accept new Medicare patients has more than doubled in the last few years. Oregon currently has more than 500,000 seniors enrolled in Medicare.