

RESOLUTION

Supporting the continuation and strengthening of traditional Medicare.

WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential national social insurance program that has a major impact on the quality of life for over 43 million Americans young and old. Medicare provides major funding for the health care of virtually all of our nation's seniors and several million younger adults with permanent disabilities. Additional millions of younger people benefit indirectly by being relieved of a major financial burden when an older member of the family encounters major health expense.

WHEREAS, Medicare policy is a social contract between the American people and their government. Policy change undertaken to assure fiscal solvency in the future should guarantee both fairness and adequacy in the provision of health care. In addition, Medicare should remain affordable and accessible for all qualified persons; traditional Medicare should be retained and strengthened; the percentage of the increase in Medicare premiums should not exceed the percentage of the increase in Social Security benefits.

WHEREAS, Medicare should continue to expand and emphasize preventative services; Medicare beneficiaries should be issued a single card to cover all Medicare or Medicare-related benefits, including prescription drugs; Medicare should offer a uniform prescription benefit to all beneficiaries at the same cost.

AND WHEREAS, the federal government should be encouraged to negotiate the best prescription drug costs for beneficiaries. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) and Qualified Individual (Q-1) programs should be retained as well as existing related benefits through Medicaid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners supports the continuation and strengthening of traditional Medicare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit one copy of this resolution to Susan E. Axelrod, Director, Department of Senior & Adult Services.

On Motion of Commissioner Hagan, seconded by Commissioner Dimora, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Hagan, Dimora, Jones.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

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