

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 86

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Murphy, Pinkin and Swain**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes Congress to provide Medicare coverage for eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2020)**

AR86 QUIJANO, VAINIERI HUTTLE

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION memorializing Congress to provide  
2 Medicare coverage for eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures.

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4 WHEREAS, A large portion of the population in the United States  
5 wears eyeglasses, dentures, or hearing aids; with the aging of the  
6 population, a growing number of older Americans are likely to  
7 have greater health care needs, and, in particular, will need to  
8 purchase eyeglasses, hearing aids, or dentures; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite the availability of Medicare and Medicaid,  
10 many older Americans still are unable to meet their health care  
11 needs for eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures; and

12 WHEREAS, As people age, eyesight diminishes and the loss of  
13 focusing ability that accompanies aging makes it difficult to  
14 read; nearly 100% of the population 55 years of age or older is  
15 affected by this condition, known as presbyopia, which can be  
16 remedied by wearing reading eyeglasses or eyeglasses with  
17 bifocal lenses; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 42% of the elderly Medicare population  
19 have moderate or profound hearing loss, and the price of a  
20 hearing aid, which can range from hundreds to thousands of  
21 dollars for a single device, steadily increases every year; and

22 WHEREAS, Most senior citizens of this country suffer from  
23 periodontitis, the inflammation of the gums and bones supporting  
24 the teeth, and many have lost their teeth and need to repair, or be  
25 fitted with, dentures; and

26 WHEREAS, Medicare coverage does not cover the cost of  
27 eyeglasses, hearing aids, or dentures; and

28 WHEREAS, Senior citizens confront increasing medical, hospital,  
29 and other health care-related expenses and often have to meet  
30 these costs on a fixed income; and

31 WHEREAS, Coverage of the cost of eyeglasses, hearing aids, and  
32 dentures would provide access to eyeglasses, hearing aids, and  
33 dentures for elderly Americans and help improve their quality of  
34 life, restore their dignity, and alleviate the financial burden many  
35 senior citizens face when they need assistive devices to remain  
36 vibrant members of their community; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New  
39 Jersey:

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41 1. This House respectfully memorializes the Congress of the  
42 United States to enact legislation to provide Medicare coverage for  
43 eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures.

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45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
46 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
47 presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each of

1 the members of the United States Congress elected from the State of  
2 New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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7 This resolution respectfully memorializes the United States  
8 Congress to enact legislation to provide Medicare coverage for  
9 eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures. These devices, which are  
10 needed by a significant portion of the senior community, can  
11 represent a significant expense for a person living on a fixed  
12 income. Providing Medicare coverage for eyeglasses, hearing aids,  
13 and dentures may help alleviate the financial burden on elderly  
14 Americans while improving their quality of life.