

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 29

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress to provide
2 Medicare coverage for eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures.

3
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,

37
38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey*:

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

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44 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of the
45 Senate, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
46 presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each of
47 the members of the United States Congress elected from the State of
48 New Jersey.

STATEMENT

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This resolution respectfully memorializes the United States Congress to enact legislation to provide Medicare coverage for eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures.