Bill as Introduced

SCR 6 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

2000 SESSION

00-2831
01/09

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ***6***

A RESOLUTION urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices.

SPONSORS: Sen. Hollingworth, Dist 23; Sen. McCarley, Dist 6; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Klemm, Dist 22; Sen. Trombly, Dist 7; Sen. J. King, Dist 18; Sen. Cohen, Dist 24; Sen. Wheeler, Dist 21; Sen. F. King, Dist 1; Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Rep. Emerton, Hills 7; Rep. S. Holley, Hills 28; Rep. Copenhaver, Graf 10; Rep. Nordgren, Graf 10;

COMMITTEE: Insurance

ANALYSIS

This senate concurrent resolution urges the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices.

SCR 6 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

00-2831
01/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand

A RESOLUTION urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices.

Whereas, thanks to significant investments in research and development by pharmaceutical manufacturers prescription medications offer ever more safe, effective, and economical means of managing and treating a widening range of illnesses and conditions; and

Whereas, prescription medications are the most rapidly expanding component of health care in New England and the United States; and

Whereas, the prices of most prescription medications developed and marketed in the United States are relatively high compared to the prices of these same medications in other countries and other markets; and

Whereas, the cost of prescription medications for medicaid recipients in New Hampshire rose 17 percent in 1999 and has risen 21 percent in 2000, placing severe strains on the operating budget of the department of health and human services; and

Whereas, the federal government, unlike its counterparts in countries with national health care systems applies, neither its regulatory authority nor its purchasing power to the prices of prescription medication which consequently are markedly higher in the United States than in other countries; and

Whereas, the United States stands virtually alone among the major states of the world in recognizing and protecting the legitimate patent rights of companies that develop new prescription medications yet places no reciprocal obligations on these companies to provide reasonable and affordable access to these patented medications; and

Whereas, the federal government, by legislating to ensure relatively low prices for prescription medications purchased by federal agencies like the Veteran's Administration and for federal programs like Medicaid, while maintaining constitutional barriers against state governments taking similar measures, has exacerbated the impact of prescription medication prices on the citizens of the states; and

Whereas, the high prices of prescription medications weigh most heavily on the least fortunate and most vulnerable citizens – the uninsured and underinsured as well those stricken by serious and chronic illnesses and conditions requiring intensive and extensive treatment; and

Whereas, managing prices of prescription medications and expanding access to necessary medication will decrease the overall cost of health care by reducing the demand for hospital visits and emergency services and the need for surgical and other expensive procedures; and

Whereas, although the separate states are pursuing strategies to manage the cost of prescription medications, the federal government is best placed and equipped to address the interstate and

international character of the manufacture and distribution of prescription medications; and

Whereas, the high and rising costs of prescription medications is a national problem requiring leadership on the part of the federal government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the general court hereby urges the President and Congress of the United States to address the challenge of prescription medication prices; and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the senate clerk to the President, Vice President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate, and each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

Committee Minutes

Date: April 18, 2000
Time: 9:05 a.m.
Room: Room 103 State House

The Senate Committee on Insurance held a hearing on the following:

SCR 6 urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices

Members of Committee present:
Senator Wheeler
Senator Eaton
Senator Fraser
Senator King
Senator McCarley

The Chair, Senator Wheeler, opened the hearing on SCR 6 by calling on Senator John King to introduce the bill.

Senator King: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. I am here to urge you to go along with SCR 6. It is very timely in asking the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices. That says it all, I think. Thank you.

Senator Wheeler: Thank you. Are there any questions for Senator King? Seeing none, thank you Senator King for doing that.

Deb Merritt is signed up in support from DHHS. Anthony Juliano has signed up in support for the New Hampshire Association of Health Underwriters. Janet Monahan from the New Hampshire Medical Society is signed up in support. Jeffrey Flanders of the IIANH has signed up in support. Senator Arthur Klemm is signed up in support and Representative Sharon Nordgren of Hanover has signed up in support. No one has checked off the little box "wishing to speak". Is there anyone in the room wishing to speak?

Well, this is an easy resolution urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medical prices. It has a long list of sponsors. I think it would be even longer if some of the Senators had realized when the sign-up deadline was. In that case, with no one in opposition, I will close the hearing on SCR 6.

Hearing concluded at 9:06 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by L. Gail Brown
10/14/02

Speakers

SENATE INSURARNCE COMMITTEE

Date **April 18, 2000** Time **9:00am** Public Hearing on **SCR6**

Appearing in **FAVOR**: *(Please print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

Speaking?	*Name*	*Address*	*Representing*
☐	Deb Merrith		DHHS
☐	ANTHONY JULIANO	125 AIRPORT RD CONCORD	NH ASSOC. OF HEALTH UNDERWRITER
☐	Janet Monahan	27 N. State St, Concord	NH Medical Society
☐	Jeffrey Flanders	PO Box 715 Belmont NH	ITANH
☐	Senator Arthur Klemm	R District 22	
☐	Rep. Sharon Nordgren		Hanover
☐	Rep. Larry Emodian		House Hill. #7
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Appearing in **OPPOSITION**: *(Please Print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

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Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON Insurance

to which was referred Senate Concurrent Resolution 6

AN ACT urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices.

VOTE: 5-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Leo W. Fraser, Jr.
For the Committee

SCR6 Docket

Bill Title: urging the President and Congress to address the challenge of high prescription medication prices.

Date	Body	Description
3/23/2000	S	Introduced and Ref. to Insurance; (See Perm. Journal)
4/11/2000	S	Hearing April 18, Room 103, SH, 9:00 a.m.; SC22
4/19/2000	S	Committee Report Ought to Pass, 4/20/2000; SC24
4/20/2000	S	Ought to Pass, MA, VV, OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 11, Pg..306
4/20/2000	H	Introduced and ref to St-Fed Rel & Vets; HJ39, p1200
4/25/2000	H	Copy to Chairman on 4/25/2000
4/25/2000	H	Hearing May 3 2:00 RM306,LOB
5/10/2000	H	Maj Report WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION for May 18 (Reg)
5/12/2000	H	Reps Rubin, Quandt & Twardus Prop Fl Am {4464}; HC40, p1289
5/18/2000	H	Rep Tufts moved OTP/AM; Reps Rubin, Tufts & Twardus Fl Am, AA 2/3VV; Adopted with Am 2/3VV; HJ46,
5/18/2000	H	p1483 + 1485
5/18/2000	S	Sen. Wheeler Nonconcur with House Amendment{4464}; Request C of C ; MA, VV; SJ 15, Pg.503
5/18/2000	S	Senate Conferees; Sen. Wheeler, Klemm, Hollingworth
5/18/2000	H	House Acceded to req for Conf Comm; HJ46, p1493
5/18/2000	H	(Spkr appts Reps: Fields, Tufts,McDonough- Wallace & Priestly)
5/18/2000	S	C of C Meeting; Thursday, May 24, 2000, Room 120, SH, 2:00 p.m.
5/26/2000	H	Conferee Change: Rep Tufts replaces Quandt; HJ46, p1498
5/26/2000	H	Conf Comm Report (No House Am) filed;
5/31/2000	H	Conf Comm Report Adopted VV; HJ48, p1537
5/31/2000	S	Conf. Comm Report Adopted, VV; SJ 16, Pg.596

Docket Abbreviations