

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION urging the Tennessee Congressional delegation to consider reform and increased oversight of the 340B Prescription Drug Program.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress created the 340B Prescription Drug Program in 1992 to help certain healthcare facilities that serve large numbers of low-income, indigent, uninsured patients to reduce outpatient prescription drug costs; and

WHEREAS, the 340B Prescription Drug Program is vitally important to the many patients who depend on it; and

WHEREAS, the 340B Prescription Drug Program, while designed to serve uninsured patients, has grown exponentially in recent years at a time when insurance coverage has expanded and should lead to less need for the program; and

WHEREAS, much of the growth of the 340B Prescription Drug Program has resulted from regulatory guidance and interpretation not expressly reviewed or sanctioned by Congress; and

WHEREAS, such uncontrolled growth threatens the long-term viability of the 340B Prescription Drug Program, which is of vital importance to the indigent and uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the substantial financial benefits of the 340B Prescription Drug Program, which flow to some healthcare facilities, are often not passed on to their patients; and

WHEREAS, in the more than twenty years since the 340B Prescription Drug Program was enacted, only one Congressional Oversight Hearing has been held to examine whether the program is operating consistent with congressional intent; and

WHEREAS, access to prescription drugs and the fair treatment of indigent and uninsured patients is of deep concern to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby call upon the Tennessee Congressional delegation to review the 340B Prescription Drug Program, and propose reforms which would insure that the 340B Prescription Drug Program operates in a transparent and accountable way that is focused on directly serving low-income, indigent uninsured patients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Tennessee Congressional delegation.