
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 628 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, FRANKEL, McCLINTON, MILLARD, WEBSTER,
KULIK, SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, RAVENSTAHL, HOHENSTEIN,
STEPHENS, RABB, HILL-EVANS, KENYATTA, JOHNSON-HARRELL,
KINSEY, SAMUELSON, YOUNGBLOOD, CIRESI, MADDEN, OTTEN, KAUFER,
HOWARD, KIM AND D. MILLER, DECEMBER 9, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, DECEMBER 9, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to take action on
2 legislation that would expand Medicare coverage to include
3 hearing aids.

4 WHEREAS, Medicare is a Federal health insurance program for:

5 (1) Individuals 65 years of age or older.

6 (2) Individuals younger than 65 years of age who have
7 certain disabilities.

8 (3) Individuals of all ages who have end-stage renal
9 disease;

10 and

11 WHEREAS, Medicare consists of four parts:

12 (1) Medicare Part A, which provides hospital insurance.

13 (2) Medicare Part B, which provides medical insurance.

14 (3) Medicare Part C, which is also known as "Medicare
15 Advantage" and is a type of Medicare health plan offered by a
16 private company that includes benefits from Medicare Parts A
17 and B and that usually includes benefits from Medicare Part

1 D.

2 (4) Medicare Part D, which provides prescription drug
3 coverage;

4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Medicare program was signed into law on July 30,
6 1965; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 2.5 million Americans received hospital
8 care covered by Medicare in the first six months of the program;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, More than 60 million Americans, including more than
11 2.7 million residents of this Commonwealth, were enrolled in
12 Medicare as of March 2019; and

13 WHEREAS, Medicare does not cover hearing exams, hearing aids
14 or exams for fitting hearing aids, and only Medicare Part B
15 covers diagnostic hearing and balance exams if ordered by a
16 doctor to determine the necessity of medical treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, There are three types of hearing loss:

18 (1) Conductive hearing loss, which involves the outer or
19 middle ear.

20 (2) Sensorineural hearing loss, which involves the inner
21 ear.

22 (3) Mixed hearing loss, which involves a combination of
23 conductive and sensorineural hearing loss;

24 and

25 WHEREAS, There are four degrees of hearing loss, including
26 mild, moderate, severe and profound hearing loss, all of which
27 can impact an individual's work, social life and personal life;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, While hearing loss can occur at any age, it affects
30 an estimated 48 million Americans 12 years of age and older; and

1 WHEREAS, Hearing aids can greatly improve the quality of life
2 of an individual with hearing loss; and

3 WHEREAS, States cannot expand Medicare coverage to include
4 hearing aids as it is a Federal program; and

5 WHEREAS, Several pieces of legislation have been introduced
6 in the Congress of the United States that would expand Medicare
7 coverage to include hearing aids; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
10 States to take action on legislation that would expand Medicare
11 to include coverage of hearing aids; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
13 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
14 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.