

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, D. MILLER, DeLUCA, MALAGARI AND RYAN, DECEMBER 9, 2019

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 14, 2020

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--; AND URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES <--
4 TO APPROVE THE PROTECTING OUR PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN
5 FROM CHINA ACT, WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS
6 NOT DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR PHARMACEUTICAL
7 MANUFACTURING.

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

- 9 (1) Individuals 65 years of age or older.
10 (2) Individuals younger than 65 years of age who have
11 certain disabilities.
12 (3) Individuals of all ages who have end-stage renal
13 disease;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, Medicare consists of four parts:

- 16 (1) Medicare Part A, which provides hospital insurance.
17 (2) Medicare Part B, which provides medical insurance.
18 (3) Medicare Part C, which is also known as "Medicare

1 Advantage" and is a type of Medicare health plan offered by a  
2 private company that includes benefits from Medicare Parts A  
3 and B and that usually includes benefits from Medicare Part  
4 D.

5 (4) Medicare Part D, which provides prescription drug  
6 coverage;

7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Medicare program was signed into law on July 30,  
9 1965; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 2.5 million Americans received hospital  
11 care covered by Medicare in the first six months of the program;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, More than 60 million Americans, including more than  
14 2.7 million residents of this Commonwealth, were enrolled in  
15 Medicare as of March 2019; and

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

20 WHEREAS, There are three types of hearing loss:

21 (1) Conductive hearing loss, which involves the outer or  
22 middle ear.

23 (2) Sensorineural hearing loss, which involves the inner  
24 ear.

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

27 and

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

1 and

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Several pieces of legislation have been introduced  
9 in the Congress of the United States that would expand Medicare  
10 coverage to include hearing aids; ~~therefore be it~~ AND <--

11 WHEREAS, PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF AMERICANS IS THE  
12 PRIMARY JOB OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AT ALL TIMES, BUT ESPECIALLY SO  
13 DURING THE WORLDWIDE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND

14 WHEREAS, DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF LIFE-SUSTAINING DRUGS AND  
15 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THESE VITAL PRODUCTS MEET THE  
16 STRINGENT STANDARDS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND

17 WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)  
18 HAS WARNED THAT SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS AT DRUG MANUFACTURING  
19 FACILITIES OVERSEAS, PARTICULARLY IN CHINA AND INDIA, HAVE LED  
20 TO TAINTED MEDICATION CIRCULATING IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

21 WHEREAS, THE FDA ESTIMATES THAT ROUGHLY 85% OF THE FACILITIES  
22 THAT MANUFACTURE INGREDIENTS IN AMERICAN DRUGS ARE LOCATED  
23 OVERSEAS; AND

24 WHEREAS, IN 2019, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS INGESTED A  
25 CONTAMINANT FORMERLY USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF ROCKET FUEL  
26 THROUGH TAINTED BLOOD PRESSURE DRUGS PRODUCED IN CHINA; AND

27 WHEREAS, AS MUCH AS 95% OF IBUPROFEN, 70% OF ACETAMINOPHEN  
28 AND 45% OF PENICILLIN IS MADE IN CHINA; AND

29 WHEREAS, AN OVER-RELIANCE ON FOREIGN PRODUCTION OF  
30 PHARMACEUTICALS AFFECTS THE HEALTH OF AMERICANS AND ALSO THE

1 HEALTH OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY; AND

2 WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN  
3 COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY VITAL DRUGS DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC; AND

4 WHEREAS, LAWMAKERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT DRUG SHORTAGES AMID THE  
5 COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO AID AMERICAN  
6 MANUFACTURERS IN RECLAIMING PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION; AND

7 WHEREAS, THE PROTECTING OUR PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN FROM  
8 CHINA ACT WOULD PHASE IN A BAN ON UNITED STATES AGENCIES  
9 PURCHASING PHARMACEUTICALS WITH ACTIVE INGREDIENTS PRODUCED IN  
10 CHINA; AND

11 WHEREAS, THE BILL WOULD INCREASE TRANSPARENCY BY REQUIRING  
12 THE FDA TO CREATE A REGISTRY OF ALL DRUGS AND BY REQUIRING DRUG  
13 COMPANIES TO LIST ACTIVE INGREDIENTS AND THEIR COUNTRIES OF  
14 ORIGIN ON LABELS; AND

15 WHEREAS, THE MEASURE WOULD PROVIDE CRUCIAL INCENTIVES TO RAMP  
16 UP UNITED STATES MANUFACTURING OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS AND  
17 MEDICAL DEVICES; THEREFORE BE IT

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
20 States to take action on legislation that would expand Medicare  
21 to include coverage of hearing aids; and be it further

22 ~~RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to~~ <--  
23 ~~the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each~~  
24 ~~member of Congress from Pennsylvania.~~

25 RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE <--  
26 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA URGE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED  
27 STATES TO APPROVE THE PROTECTING OUR PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN  
28 FROM CHINA ACT, WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT  
29 DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING;  
30 AND BE IT FURTHER

1       RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO  
2 THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF  
3 EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS AND TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM  
4 PENNSYLVANIA.