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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 181 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, HOHENSTEIN, CIRESI, SANCHEZ, GUENST,  
D. WILLIAMS, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, SAPPEY, McNEILL, BURGOS,  
FIEDLER, HILL-EVANS, KHAN, N. NELSON, OTTEN, O'MARA, ROZZI,  
FREEMAN, BOROWSKI, T. DAVIS, CERRATO, HARKINS, WEBSTER, KIM,  
SHUSTERMAN, HADDOCK, HOWARD, DELLOSO AND PROBST,  
AUGUST 8, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AUGUST 8, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to expand Medicare to  
2 include coverage of hearing aids.

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

4 (1) individuals 65 years of age or older;

5 (2) individuals younger than 65 years of age who have  
6 certain disabilities; and

7 (3) individuals of all ages who have end-stage renal  
8 disease;

9 and

10 WHEREAS, Medicare consists of four parts:

11 (1) Medicare Part A, which provides hospital insurance;

12 (2) Medicare Part B, which provides medical insurance;

13 (3) Medicare Part C, which is popularly known as

14 "Medicare Advantage," and is a type of Medicare health plan

15 offered by a private company that includes benefits from

16 Medicare Parts A and B and that usually includes benefits

1 from Medicare Part D; and

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 63.9 million Americans, including more  
11 than 2.8 million residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
12 were enrolled in Medicare as of December 2021; and

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

18 WHEREAS, There are three types of hearing loss:

19 (1) conductive hearing loss, which involves the outer or  
20 middle ear;

21 (2) sensorineural hearing loss, which involves the inner  
22 ear; and

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

25 and

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

30 WHEREAS, While hearing loss can occur at any age, it affects

1 an estimated 48 million Americans who are 12 years of age or  
2 older; and

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

5 WHEREAS, States cannot expand Medicare coverage to include  
6 hearing aids as Medicare is a Federal program; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
9 States to expand Medicare to include coverage of hearing aids;  
10 and be it further

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