

H. Res. 535

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 29, 2000.

Whereas Congress is responsible for oversight and spending under the Medicare Program;

Whereas the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was passed in response to major economic concerns about inflation in costs in the Medicare Program;

Whereas the savings resulting from enactment of that Act exceeded the estimates at the time of enactment and has resulted in payment rates for classes of providers below the rates previously anticipated;

Whereas the Congress adjusted some elements of the Medicare Program in the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999;

Whereas a significant number of Medicare+Choice organizations is withdrawing, or considering withdrawing, from the Medicare+Choice Program because of inadequate reimbursement rates;

Whereas the Medicare prescription drug bill pending in the Congress will delay the date by which Medicare+Choice organizations must decide whether to remain in the Medicare+Choice Program from July 1, 2000, to October 1, 2000; and

Whereas, because of improved economic performance, it is anticipated that the Congressional Budget Office in its mid-year reestimates will project dramatically increased non-Social Security surpluses above those assumed in the adoption of the most recent Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that, upon receipt of such mid-year Congressional Budget Office re-estimates, the House of Representatives shall promptly assess the budgetary implications of such re-estimates and provide for appropriate adjustments to the Medicare Program during this legislative session.

Attest:

Clerk.