

## House Resolution 1118

By: Representatives Graves of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Parham of the 122<sup>nd</sup>, Twiggs of the 8<sup>th</sup> and Stephens of the 150<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Strongly urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover the cost of all oral anticancer drugs; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the State of Georgia and throughout the nation; and
- 5 WHEREAS, cancer is disproportionately a disease of the elderly with more than half of all cancer diagnoses occurring in persons age 65 or older who are dependent on the federal Medicare program for the provision of cancer care; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the nation's investment in biomedical research has begun to bear fruit with a compelling array of new oral anticancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective, and more cost effective than existing therapies; and
- 11 WHEREAS, treatment with anticancer drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care, elderly cancer patients must have access to this potentially life-extending drug therapy; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Medicare program's coverage of the cost of drugs is limited to injectable drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable version leaving many Medicare beneficiaries confronting the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by Medicare; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral anticancer drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries suffering from blood related cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, as well as cancers of the breast, lung, and prostate; and
- 20 WHEREAS, certain members of the United States Congress have recognized the necessity of Medicare coverage for all oral anticancer drugs and introduced legislation in the 107th Congress to provide such coverage.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the  
2 members of this body strongly urge the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation  
3 requiring the Medicare program to cover the cost of all oral anticancer drugs.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
5 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the President of the United  
6 States, the members of the Georgia Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Health and  
7 Human Services, and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.