

Senate Resolution 941

By: Senators Starr of the 44th, Dean of the 31st and Stokes of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Strongly urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare
- 2 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
- 4 throughout the nation; and

- 5 WHEREAS, cancer is disproportionately a disease of the elderly with more than half of all
- 6 cancer diagnoses occurring in persons age 65 or older who are dependent on the federal
- 7 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
- 9 compelling array of new oral anticancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective, and more
- 10 cost effective than existing therapies; and

- 11 WHEREAS, treatment with anticancer drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care,
- 12 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
- 14 drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable version leaving many Medicare beneficiaries
- 15 confronting the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more
- 16 toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by Medicare; and

- 17 WHEREAS, Medicare's failure to cover oral anticancer drugs leaves at risk many
- 18 beneficiaries suffering from blood related cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and
- 19 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
- 21 of Medicare coverage for all oral anticancer drugs and introduced legislation in the 107th
- 22 Congress to provide such coverage.

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

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