

House Resolution 760

By: Representatives Kelley of the 16th, Ramsey of the 72nd, Peake of the 141st, Roberts of the 155th, Watson of the 166th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that Congress oppose a new tax on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama advocated for a
4 rebate proposal that will function as a new tax on the Medicare Part D program and unfairly
5 raise premiums for seniors enrolled in the program; and

6 WHEREAS, rebates in Medicare Part D will limit competition and increase premiums by an
7 estimated 20 to 40 percent for the average enrollee, according to economist Doug
8 Holtz-Eakin; and

9 WHEREAS, rebates will restrict seniors' access to drugs, limit consumer choice, and
10 compromise innovation in the drug industry; and

11 WHEREAS, Medicare Part D is an extremely successful program, following a free-market
12 model which has resulted in lower drug costs through competition; and

13 WHEREAS, Medicare Part D has come in 45 percent below initial cost estimates according
14 to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and further increased savings to medicare
15 are projected over the next ten years due to Part D's success in holding down drug costs and
16 reducing hospitalizations; and

17 WHEREAS, a national survey conducted in 2012 found that 90 percent of seniors are
18 satisfied with their Medicare Part D coverage; and

19 WHEREAS, Medicare Part D should be viewed as a model of reform for the entitlement
20 system given its popularity among seniors and its strong record of competition, which has
21 kept down costs.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body request the Georgia Congressional Delegation to oppose a rebate
24 proposal that will function as a new tax on the Medicare Part D program and unfairly raise
25 premiums for seniors enrolled in the program.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Congressional
28 Delegation, Senator Saxby Chambliss, and Senator Johnny Isakson.