

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk

101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2019-02

- WHEREAS, Health care costs continue to rise for all Americans and, for some Americans, this increase can be devastating; and
- WHEREAS, Medicare is the focus of many lawmakers who portray it as an "entitlement" program that costs the Treasury too much money. Technically, the term "entitlement" is correct but it has an unfortunate connotation; and
- WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential medical plan that millions of seniors and disabled individuals depend upon to stay alive. Medicare is not a gift, as the term "entitlement" suggests. Many of the beneficiaries have worked their entire adult life and paid into the system in order to receive this crucial medical plan; and
- WHEREAS, Due to spiraling costs largely associated with the price of prescription medications, our elected officials find themselves passing on increased costs to those who can least afford that increase, namely senior citizens and disabled individuals who are on Medicare's Part D drug program; and
- WHEREAS, When congress enacted The Medicare Prescription Drug Bill they enacted a law that does not allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for drug price the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration does; and
- WHEREAS, One economist, Dean Baker, estimates that Medicare could have saved approximately \$332 billion dollars between 2006 and 2013 (approximately \$50 billion a year) had the Department of Health and Human Services been permitted to negotiate prices of drugs with the drug companies, as federal agencies do in other programs; and
- WHEREAS, Rising prescription drug costs have been the primary reason for the increase in health benefit costs; and
- WHEREAS, The increasing cost of prescription drugs and outrageous profits made by pharmaceutical companies is a systemic problem that significantly affects our state and our nation. It deserves non-partisan effort; and
- WHEREAS, We must prevent our elected officials from balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, the elderly and disabled. Increases in premiums and drug costs are unacceptable ways to deal with a flawed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; and
- WHEREAS, We must preserve the Medicare program as it currently exists and to do so requires immediate action to cut unnecessary costs, particularly in the area of prescription drug coverage; and
- WHEREAS, We must revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper, drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and
- WHEREAS, We cannot allow the previously approved bill to stand as adopted at the risk of having the Medicare program be the cause of a staggeringly increasing deficit which will require tax increases or cuts to the rest of the government, nor can we allow the continuance of price increases to our citizens causing many of them to contemplate discontinuing medically necessary drugs in order to pay their bills, heat their houses and have food on the table; Therefore, Be It
- RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners goes on record urging our Legislators to immediately commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper drugs from Canada and elsewhere; Be It Further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area Federal and State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other Michigan counties.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Alger County Board of Commissioners at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Froberg, Alger County Clerk

Dated: February 19, 2019

