

Honorable Laurence J. Hogan, the Honorable Gilbert Gude, the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell, the Honorable Goodloe E. Byron, the Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes, the Honorable Marjorie S. Holt, and the Honorable Robert E. Bauman.

Approved April 30, 1974.

No. 33

(House Joint Resolution 34)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Federal Medicare Program - Terminal Patients

FOR the purpose of requesting that the United States Congress amend that part of the Medicare program which unnecessarily forces terminally ill patients to move from hospitals in which they have been receiving care.

The Congress of the United States has enacted a nationwide health care plan, Medicare, to ensure that all citizens receive decent and adequate treatment in health care matters.

Although this system of health care is a good one, an alarming practice has arisen which is vicious and degrading to human dignity.

Under Medicare, payments for treatment in a hospital are stopped when it is determined by a certain committee that any patient is terminally ill and that any further treatment is unnecessary.

When such a decision is made, Medicare is stopped and a terminally ill patient is cruelly "shipped out" from one location to another, sometimes far from loved ones, left to die.

Everyone should be allowed to face death with dignity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Congress of the United States amend the Medicare Act so that terminal patients are not forced to move from a hospital during their last moments on earth simply because they are terminally ill[[, and]] and because the provisions of Medicare do not extend to patients with long term illnesses in order to insure that better care is taken of such persons; and be it further