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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, American senior citizens are confused about the new Medicare drug plan; because this confusion is so prevalent, Congress should provide more time for seniors to determine the best options for their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, According to a poll released by the Kaiser Family Foundation, two-thirds of seniors do not know they have to choose a private prescription drug plan; one-third of seniors think they can receive their drugs through Medicare; the poll showed that 76% of seniors have never been on-line, making researching their options even more intimidating; and

WHEREAS, Most alarming, 63% of seniors don't know they will face financial penalties if they do not sign up by next May; and

WHEREAS, The Medicare Informed Choice Act of 2005 will protect seniors as they work their way through the benefit; the bill does three important things: delays the late enrollment penalties for an additional six months, providing an entire year before financial penalties will be assessed; gives every Medicare beneficiary the opportunity to make a one-time change in plan enrollment at any point in 2006, providing for correction of any mistake made in choosing a plan; and it protects employees from being dropped by their former employer's plan during the first year of implementation so that beneficiaries have time to correct enrollment mistakes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Congress to pass the Medicare Informed Choice Act of 2005 as introduced in the Senate; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to
2 each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.