

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LR415

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: March 02, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LR 415 would urge the Nebraska congressional delegation to support and co-sponsor U.S. Senate Bill 1989 entitled Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2015.

In August 2015, U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R- LA), co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, (D-WA), introduced Senate Bill 1989 entitled Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2015, which addresses two main policy issues: Medicare and Health Savings Accounts (HSA).

Currently, if a Medicare beneficiary would like to participate in a direct primary care practice the individual would have to pay the monthly fee out-of-pocket. The Primary Care Enhancement Act would allow for a payment pathway as an alternative payment model for Medicare and dual eligible beneficiaries. It would allow Medicare Advantage plans to work with direct primary care providers in an ACO-like structure with a flat fee payment model.

The Primary Care Enhancement Act will also clarify provisions of the tax code so direct primary care providers are not considered health plans. Instead, the monthly payment would qualify as health expenses or medical services so employers and individuals with HSAs can participate in direct primary care arrangements by using HSA funds.

A copy of the resolution would be sent to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation and to US Senator Bill Cassidy.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Merv Riepe