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RESOLUTION NO. 07-98

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1459/S. 543, THE "PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION HOSPITALS ACT" OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Village of Palmetto Bay remains concerned with maintaining the quality of life for residents in our community; and

WHEREAS, the continued quality of inpatient rehabilitation facilities are important members of the healthcare provider community in Florida, and their existence benefits the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, inpatient rehabilitation is often essential to individuals with disabilities, illnesses and injuries that require intensive rehabilitative care to regain and/or maintain their ability to function; and

WHEREAS, determining one's rehabilitative needs is a decision between the individual, the rehabilitation doctors and other providers, and is a decision that should not be dictated by government policy that is based solely on the diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare "75-percent Rule" currently forces many who require intensive rehabilitation to be diverted to nursing homes and other less intensive facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare "75-percent Rule" not only prevents people with certain diagnoses from receiving vital inpatient rehabilitative care, but threatens the capacity of the inpatient rehabilitative system to treat the growing number of individuals in need of the intensive rehabilitative services to maximize favorable outcomes and a return to independent living; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1459/S. 543, the Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act, would lessen the negative impact of the Medicare "75-percent Rule" by freezing the current threshold at 60 percent rather than increasing it to 75 percent, which would allow inpatient rehabilitation facilities greater flexibility to assess who is admitted by placing emphasis on the specific medical and rehabilitation needs of each individual patient,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Village of Palmetto Bay, Florida, urges the U.S. Congress to enact H.R. 1459/S. 543, the Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act, or similar legislation.

Section 2. The Village Clerk is requested to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation.

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Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of October, 2007.

Attest: Meighan Rader
Meighan Rader
Village Clerk

Eugene P. Flinn, Jr.
Eugene P. Flinn, Jr.
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Eve Boutsis
Eve Boutsis, Office of the Village Attorney
Nagin Gallop Figueredo, P.A.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

- Council Member Ed Feller YES
- Council Member Paul Neidhart YES
- Council Member Shelley Stanczyk YES
- Vice-Mayor Linda Robinson YES
- Mayor Eugene P. Flinn, Jr. YES