



## **H. Con. Res. 133– Supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week**

### **Floor Situation**

H.Con.Res. 133 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD) on April 26, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 133 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on October 15, 2007.

### **Summary**

H.Con.Res. 133 supports the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week.

The legislation encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States about long-term care.

H.Con.Res. 133 also urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the potential risks and costs associated with long-term care and the options available to help meet their long-term care needs.

### **Background**

The Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 60 percent of individuals who are over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care services. More than 40 percent of those same individuals will require nursing home care.

A 2006 AARP study concluded that given the already high costs related to long-term care and the projected growth in the size of the older population in future years, it is essential for people in the United States to learn more about the costs of long term care. Additionally, they must find ways to prepare for and pay for long term care, and State and community resources that are available to assist in these challenges.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported that broad-based misperceptions regarding the Medicare program's level of long-term care coverage significantly contributes to the lack of personal preparation of people in the United States

for the financing of long term care. The GAO advises that the government can play a significant part in enhancing personal preparedness by educating people in the United States about the scope of coverage of long-term care under public programs such as the Medicare program.

**Staff Contact**

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.