



Sonoma County Democratic Party



Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACCESS TO PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006 (S.3963)

WHEREAS Senator Craig Thomas (R–Wyo.) introduced federal legislation --- The Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006 (S.3963) --- that will enable all state licensed or certified therapy providers to once again provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services to Medicare beneficiaries under the supervision of physicians in “incident to” reimbursement situations and will restore physician choice of whom they can hire to provide services to their Medicare patients including lymphedema therapists that are RN’s, LPNs and LMTs; and

WHEREAS this legislation is an important step to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries access to quality health care and restoring physician choice of therapy providers working under their supervision, makes lymphedema therapists covered providers for the purposes of Medicare reimbursement thus providing a great opportunity for cost savings to the Medicare program and by restoring coverage to cancer survivors suffering from lymphedema who have lost access to more than one-third of these specially trained therapists because of the Medicare rule; and

WHEREAS in a world of declining healthcare options, we make common cause with a Republican member of Congress who seeks to expand these options for the benefit of all Americans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee call upon our Democratic Senators and Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor or otherwise support S.3963 by forwarding copies of this resolution; and

RESOLVED that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee transmit a copy of this resolution to the California Democratic Party, the Coalition to Preserve Patients Access, Lymphedema Stakeholders, Inc., and such media outlets as the Public Relations Committee may deem appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Gangale
Chair-Elect, Issues and Legislation Committee
Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee

10 October 2006

Amended from a draft by Jay Hubbell, Member, Fresno County Democratic Central Committee