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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Prentice, D. Sommers, Paris, Moyer, Sprenkle, Ludwig, Franklin, Winsley and Fraser.

Read first time February 1, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, United States consumers pay the highest prices in the  
9 world for prescription drugs; and

10            WHEREAS, Under the federal Robinson-Patman Act (49 Stat. 1526; 15  
11 U.S.C. Sec. 13), manufacturers are required to make the same prices and  
12 promotional allowances available to all customers within the same class  
13 of trade; and

14            WHEREAS, Multitiered pricing is the legal term used to describe the  
15 practice of offering special prices to different "classes of trade"  
16 thereby basing the price on **WHO** you are rather than **HOW MUCH** you buy;  
17 and

1       WHEREAS, Multitiered pricing practices lead to increases in health  
2 care costs; and

3       WHEREAS, Multitiered pricing practices improperly burdens one  
4 segment of pharmacy in relationship to other segments that are  
5 basically in the same class of trade; and

6       WHEREAS, With the retail level pharmacists dispensing two out of  
7 every three prescriptions in this country, and retail pharmacy  
8 identified as the top tier in the cost of prescription drugs,  
9 multitiered pricing practices have a profound effect on the cost of  
10 health care, especially for the elderly retired individual on fixed  
11 income;

12       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
13 Congress of the United States take this Memorial into account in  
14 reviewing proposed solutions to controlling the medication component of  
15 increasing health care costs; and

16       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Department of Legislative Reference for distribution  
18 to the chairperson of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the  
19 chairpersons of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, House  
20 Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law, and House Subcommittee on  
21 Health, and any other appropriate committee or committees of the United  
22 States House or Senate; and

23       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
24 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
25 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
26 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
27 Washington.