

## New Orleans City Council

### Supports Medicare-Medicaid Crossover Payments



Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson

December 18, 2008, Regular Meeting Summary

The Council passed Resolution R-08-604, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, requesting that the State of Louisiana restore Medicare-Medicaid crossover payments so that all Medicare beneficiaries in New Orleans have equal access to their Medicare benefits.

Low-income Medicare beneficiaries also have Medicaid, and in 2000 Louisiana decreased payments for low-income Medicare beneficiaries which "crossed-over" from Medicare to Louisiana Medicaid for payment.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Louisiana's policy of decreasing reimbursement only for low-income Medicare beneficiaries disproportionately harms poor people with Medicaid. As a Council we are dedicated to ensuring that all Medicare beneficiaries in New Orleans have equal access to Medicare benefits."

The Resolution cites the fact that it is now illegal for low-income Medicare beneficiaries to receive the same benefits which wealthy beneficiaries receive, therefore creating a financial incentive for physicians to move into wealthy neighborhoods. The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that this situation decreases psychiatric access and heightens New Orleans' mental health crisis.