Tier 1, AMDT # 1
March 12, 2013 11:55 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Van Hollen, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, and Pocan

Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on the need to prevent job loss and maintain vital services by replacing the sequester with a balanced and bipartisan approach to long-term deficit reduction.

(a) The House finds that---

(1) every bipartisan commission has recommended – and the majority of Americans agree – that we should take a balanced, bipartisan approach to reducing the deficit that addresses both revenue and spending; and

(2) sequestration is a meat-ax approach to deficit reduction that imposes deep and mindless cuts, regardless of their impact on vital services and investments.

(b) It is the sense of that House that the Congress should---

(1) enact H.R. 699, which would replace the 2013 sequester with a balanced mix of spending reductions and revenue increases, to address the job loss and drag on economic growth in the near-term; and

(2) replace the entire 10-year sequester established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 with a balanced approach that would increase revenues without increasing the tax burden on middle-income Americans, and decrease long-term spending while maintaining the Medicare guarantee, protecting Social Security and a strong social safety net, and making strategic investments in education, science, research, and critical infrastructure necessary to compete in the global economy."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution expresses the sense of the House that the sequester, which will cost 750,000 American jobs this year alone and cut the rate of economic growth by one third, should be replaced with a balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes both targeted spending reductions and increases in revenues that do not increase the tax burden on middle-income Americans.

TIER 1, AMDT #2
March 12, 2013 10:37 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Schwartz, Van Hollen, Yarmuth, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, Pocan, Cardenas, Blumenauer, and Schrader

Putting the Country Back to Work with the American Jobs Act

1. Home Energy Retrofit Rebates & Advanced Vehicles Incentives: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 270 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure American families have access to assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and to ensure that resources are available to spur the development and deployment of clean, advanced vehicles.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018	2019
BA	7.000					
Outlays	0.400	2.050	2.450	1.280	0.675	0.010

National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 370 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to build a national network to support manufacturing innovation around the country.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	1.000									
Outlays	0.208	0.131	0.174	0.189	0.140	0.068	0.043	0.029	0.015	0.004

Improve Surface Transportation: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 400 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect $50 billion in funding starting in 2013 to invest in the country's roads, rails and airports.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA										
Outlays	19.920	16.210	5.780	2.350	1.680	1.350	0.600	0.500	0.400	0.200

Neighborhood Stabilization, First Responders & Infrastructure Bank: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 450 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect $26 billion in funding starting in 2013 to put construction workers on the job rehabilitating and refurbishing hundreds of thousands of vacant and foreclosed homes and businesses, to leverage private and public capital in order to invest in a broad range of vital infrastructure projects, and to support the hiring and retention of first responders and to prevent layoffs.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA										
Outlays	0.350	4.800	6.450	3.330	2.270	1.200	1.000	1.000	1.250	1.250

Education & Training: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 500 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect $79.167 billion in funding starting in 2013 to support repairing and modernizing crumbling schools, prevent the layoffs of hundreds of thousands of teachers, and support necessary teacher training.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018	2019
BA	2.866	3.066	0.400			
Outlays	34.282	20.957	10.248	3.082	0.612	0.020

Veterans Conservation Corps: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 700 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to put thousands of veterans to work on conservation projects.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018
BA	1.000				
Outlays	0.100	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225

First Responders: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 750 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect $4 billion in funding starting in 2013 to support the hiring and retention of first responders.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	
BA				
Outlays	1.500	1.500	0.500	

Build America Bonds: Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 800 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure that states and localities have the resources they need to pursue necessary capital projects.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	0.872	1.963	3.157	4.432	5.844	7.387	9.006	10.684	12.384	14.099
Outlays	0.872	1.963	3.157	4.432	5.844	7.387	9.006	10.684	12.384	14.099

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes sufficient funding to support the President's 'American Jobs Act' proposals. These proposals would do the following:

- ensure the availability of resources so that American families lower their utility payments.
- make advanced vehicles more affordable and to accelerate deployment of alternative-fuel vehicles.
- create a network of manufacturing innovation by leveraging new investment from industry, federal, state and local government and the research community.
- help modernize an infrastructure that in 2009, the last year such measures were taken, received a grade of "D" from the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- bring in expertise and capital from the private sector, focus on commercial and residential property improvements, and expand innovative property solutions like land banks. This approach will not only create construction jobs but will help reduce blight and crime and stabilize housing prices in areas hardest hit by the housing crisis. In addition, the resolution funding will support establishing an infrastructure bank to focus on national infrastructure projects and provide technical assistance to public entities that do not have the capacity to handle such projects on their own.
- improve and repair public schools, including community colleges, to bolster their infrastructure to ensure that educational needs of future generations of students and communities will be served.
- help schools retain and hire the teachers, guidance counselors, and other teaching aides who are necessary to our children's education.
- develop a Veterans Job Corps conservation program to put to work these highly trained and skilled workers so that they can continue serving the community and their country.
- support first responders through the COPS and BYRNE grants, and provide funding to retain police officers and other first responders to help states and localities avoid disruptions in service.
- support the Build America Bonds program to help states and municipalities finance construction and repairs of public buildings, courthouses, schools, transportation infrastructure, government hospitals, public safety facilities and equipment, water and sewer projects, environmental projects, energy projects government housing and public utilities.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding for 'The American Jobs Act' by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

Tier 1, AMDT # 3
March 12, 2013 9:19 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Pocan, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, Moore, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, and Lujan Grisham

Protect the American Middle Class from Tax Increases

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House Rejecting Any Tax Increases on the Middle Class

(a) The House finds that---

(1) According to CBO, between 1979 and 2007, real after-tax incomes for the top 1 percent of income earners grew 278 percent or a stunning $973,100 per household. In contrast, real after-tax incomes of the middle 20 percent of families grew just 25 percent, and incomes of the poorest 20 percent increased 16 percent.

(2) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American families lost ground even during the 2000s as median income slipped 4.9 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2009.

(b) It is the sense of the House that this resolution would not allow taxes to be raised on middle-class taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes below $200,000 ($250,000 for married couples), and would still reflect the tax rates and income thresholds established in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Raising taxes on working families by eliminating their tax benefits – all for the purpose of providing millionaires with trillions of dollars in tax cuts – would have serious negative consequences, including the following:

(1) make it even harder for working families to make ends meet;

(2) cost the economy millions of jobs over the coming years by reducing consumer spending, which will greatly weaken economic growth;

(3) hurt middle class homeowners and deliver another blow to the struggling housing industry by reducing the mortgage interest or real estate tax deductions that middle class families presently receive in support of financing and owning a home – which is the cornerstone of the American dream;

(4) Dismantle employer-sponsored health insurance coverage for the middle class by reducing the exclusion of employer contributions for medical insurance premiums and medical care that middle class families presently enjoy;

(5) weaken the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit that go to 25 million working families, including military families – credits that are demonstrated to increase work effort; and

(6) further widen the income gap between the wealthiest households and the middle class by making the tax code more regressive."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution reflects the tax rates and income thresholds established in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, and expressly opposes any effort to raise taxes on individuals with adjusted gross income below $200,000 or any married couple with adjusted gross income below $250,000.

TIER 1, AMDT #4
March 12, 2013 9:00 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lujan Grisham, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, and Pocan

Protect the Health Care of Seniors and those Near Retirement from Republican Cuts

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 550 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure that that senior citizens and persons with disabilities will not lose critical Medicaid assistance to cover the costs of their nursing home care or home- and community-based services, and to ensure that the one in five low-income Medicare beneficiaries who are also eligible for Medicaid continue to receive help paying their premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*
BA	0	40	50	60	70	90	100	120	130	150
Outlays	0	40	50	60	70	90	100	120	130	150

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; and 4) tax breaks for those with taxable incomes above $450,000 annually.

3. At the end of Title VII add the following:

"Sense of the House on Protecting Help with Prescription Drug Costs and Other Valuable Health Benefits for Seniors

(a) The House finds that---

(1) the Affordable Care Act provides many important new benefits and protections for seniors, including help with prescription drug costs, Medicare coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded

support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents;

(2) the Affordable Care Act will reduce out-of-pocket costs for the average senior citizen by more than $800 annually by 2022, and it will reduce average out-of-pocket costs for seniors who would otherwise fall into the Medicare prescription drug benefit's coverage gap, or "donut hole," by $2,600 by 2022 by gradually closing the coverage gap; and

(3) repeal of the Affordable Care Act would take away these important benefits and increase out-of-pocket costs for seniors by hundreds or thousands of dollars.

(b) It is the sense of the House that the important benefits for seniors provided by the Affordable Care Act should not be repealed. These benefits include the gradual closing of the prescription drug coverage gap, coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents."

4. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

5. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution rejects policies favoring tax cuts for the wealthiest members of our society at the expense of protecting access to long-term care and other critical health care services for the 62 million Americans who rely on the health care safety net provided by Medicaid, including senior citizens, children with autism, young adults with mental health needs, disabled individuals living in the community, and other working Americans.

The resolution rejects any policy that would cut long-term care benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities, and it affirms that state governments should not reduce long-term care for seniors or the disabled as a way to control Medicaid spending. The resolution further rejects any policy – including converting Medicaid into a block grant or imposing a federal cap on Medicaid funding -- that would sever the connection between Medicaid funding and the actual costs of necessary services used by seniors, persons with disabilities, and working families. Such policies do not represent reform, because they do nothing to reduce health costs. Rather, such policies would inevitably lead to a dramatic cut in health care support for people who depend on Medicaid, imposing serious financial hardship on them and their families. It has been estimated that up to a third of Medicaid beneficiaries would lose their benefits under this type of plan. Seniors and persons with disabilities would be at particular risk of hardship under such a proposal, because they account for two-thirds of Medicaid spending, and would therefore be a likely focus of service cuts to comply with a capped funding level.

Medicaid is vital to seniors for many reasons.

- Sixty percent of people living in nursing homes depend on Medicaid to help pay their bill.
- Medicaid is the largest payer for long-term care services in the United States, paying for nearly half (43 percent) of all long-term care provided in the United

States, including nursing home care and and home- and community-based supports that seniors may chose as an alternative to expensive institutional care.

- One in five Medicare beneficiaries depends on Medicaid for help paying for health care. These “dual eligibles” account for a third of Medicaid spending.
- At least 70 percent of persons over age 65 will likely need long-term care services at some point.

The resolution also rejects repeal of important benefits for seniors provided by the Affordable Care Act, including the gradual closing of the prescription drug coverage gap, coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of health care funding to protect long-term care services for seniors and persons with disabilities, along with important health services for low-income children and other groups helped by Medicaid, by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with taxable incomes above $450,000 annually.

Tier 1, AMDT #5
March 12, 2013 9:00 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Yarmuth, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, Pocan, Blumenauer, and Schrader

Protect Access to Health Insurance for the 129 Million Americans with Pre-Existing Health Conditions and for Young Adults

1. At the end of Title VII, add the following:

"Sense of the House on the Importance of Protecting Access to Health Insurance for the 129 million Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions, and Protecting the Ability of Dependents to Remain on their Parents' Health Insurance up to Age 26.

(a) The House finds that---

(1) Under the Affordable Care Act, starting in 2014, Americans cannot be denied coverage, be charged significantly higher premiums, be subjected to an extended waiting period, or have their benefits curtailed by insurance companies because of some type of pre-existing health condition.
(2) Up to half of non-elderly Americans have a pre-existing health condition such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, or high blood pressure. Up to one in five non-elderly Americans with a pre-existing condition — 25 million individuals — is uninsured.
(3) As many as 82 million Americans with employer-based coverage have a pre-existing condition, ranging from life-threatening illnesses like cancer to chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma, or heart disease. Without the Affordable Care Act, such conditions limit the ability to obtain affordable health insurance if these individuals become self-employed, take a job with a company that does not offer coverage for a pre-existing condition, or experience a change in life circumstance, such as divorce, retirement, or moving to a different state.
(4) Older Americans between ages 55 and 64 are particularly at risk, as up to 86 percent have some type of pre-existing condition.
(5) Up to 30 percent of people in good health today are likely to develop a pre-existing condition over the next eight years, severely limiting their health insurance choices without the protections of the Affordable Care Act.
(6) There are 17 million children under age 18 with some type of pre-existing condition, and despite the protections offered by Medicaid and CHIP, up to 2 million of them are uninsured. Already, due to the new health reform law, insurers cannot deny coverage to children under the age of 19 based on a pre-

existing condition — a protection that would be revoked without the Affordable Care Act.

(7) The Affordable Care Act also extends dependent health coverage up to age 26. From September 2010 to December 2011, three million young adults gained health insurance coverage and the percentage of adults ages 19 to 25 with coverage increased from 64.4 percent to 74.8 percent.

(8) The young adults most likely to benefit from this policy are those who are in poor health. The policy has led to significant reductions in the number of young adults who delay getting the health care they need or do not receive that care because of cost.

(9) While important for young adults of all races and ethnicities, the extension of dependent coverage is particularly important to minority communities; the policy has led to the largest gains in coverage among Native Americans, Asians, and Latinos.

(10) The Affordable Care Act contains additional important protections for all Americans, including: providing tax credits to small business owners to help them afford health insurance for their employees and allowing small businesses to band together to purchase health insurance coverage that will allow them to have the same negotiating power as large businesses; requiring health insurance companies to provide a basic summary of plan benefits and coverage; supporting consumers in appealing health plan decisions; banning lifetime and annual limits; and ensuring that insurance companies spend at least 80 percent of premiums on providing care.

(b) It is the sense of the House that the important benefits for all Americans provided by the Affordable Care Act, including preventing insurance company discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions and allowing young adults to remain on their parents' health insurance plan, should not be repealed."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution rejects repeal of the important benefits for all Americans provided by the Affordable Care Act, including the protection against discrimination based on pre-existing health conditions, the ability of young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plan, and tax credits for small businesses.

TIER 1, AMDT #6
March 12, 2013 8:45PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Castor, Van Hollen, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, Pocan, Lujan Grisham, and Cardenas

Creating Jobs that Help Students

1. Increase outlays for Function 500 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect an increase of $55 billion in budget authority in 2013 for an initiative to save teacher jobs and create construction jobs while upgrading at least 35,000 crumbling public schools across the country, including elementary and secondary schools and community colleges.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*
BA						
Outlays	23.139	14.348	6.924	1.817	0.124	0.017

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   Unless Congress acts to prevent it, across-the-board cuts to federal spending under sequestration will cost the country 750,000 jobs this year alone, just as the economy is recovering from the worst recession since the Depression and too many Americans are still struggling to find jobs. To prevent up to 280,000 teacher layoffs, and to put Americans back to work creating an infrastructure that supports learning for students of all ages, this budget resolution assumes $55 billion of new funding in 2013 to carry out President Obama's education jobs initiatives. Of that total, $25 billion would support teacher jobs, helping schools retain and hire the teachers, guidance counselors, and other teaching aides who are necessary to our children's education. The remaining $30 billion would fund critical repairs and needed renovation projects for at least 35,000 public schools that would put hundreds of thousands of Americans – including construction workers, engineers, maintenance staff, and electrical workers – back to work.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of student loan funding by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

TIER 1, AMDT #7
March 12, 2013 8:14 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Moore, Van Hollen, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, Pocan, and Lujan Grisham

Protect the Vulnerable

1. Change budget authority and outlays by the following amounts in billions of dollars to prevent cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to continue enhancements to the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and American Opportunity Tax Credit through 2023.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Function 500:										
BA	---	---	---	---	---	5.097	4.991	4.898	4.882	4.731
Outlays	---	---	---	---	---	5.097	4.991	4.898	4.882	4.731
Function 600:										
BA	.600	13.100	13.500	13.800	14.200	30.100	30.600	31.000	31.600	32.200
Outlays	.600	13.100	13.500	13.800	14.200	30.100	30.600	31.000	31.600	32.200

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on Protecting the Vulnerable

(a) The House finds that---

(1) Means-tested programs keep or lift one out of every seven Americans out of poverty.

(2) Without this social safety net, nearly twice as many people would be living in poverty.

(3) SNAP alone lifts over one million children out of deep poverty (below half the poverty line).

(4) The enhancements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit initially enacted in the Recovery Act, and extended in the American Taxpayer Relief Act, lift 1.6 million people out of poverty, including nearly one million children. Many military families are among the beneficiaries of these vital policies.

(5) Social safety net spending must expand when the economy faces a downturn in order to protect those most hurt.

(6) Bipartisan budget experts agree that protecting the disadvantaged is a core principle in developing a fiscal framework.

(b) It is the sense of the House that any acceptable deficit reduction package must provide for a robust social safety net. Programs that help the most vulnerable among us must not be cut solely for the sake of deficit reduction. Entitlement reforms should not be enacted unless they are coupled with protections for the most vulnerable or with changes to strengthen the social safety net for those who most rely on it."

5. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) – formerly known as food stamps – will retain its current structure, allowing it to continue to meet the nutritional needs of low-income families. The resolution also assumes that the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the enhancements to the Earned Income and Child Tax credits that are scheduled to expire under current law will continue through 2023.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding to protect vulnerable citizens by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

The resolution also includes a sense of the House finding that government programs have been successful in lifting people out of poverty and, as endorsed by numerous bipartisan budget experts, reinforces ensuring the ability to protect the disadvantaged as a core pillar for evaluating any deficit reduction package.

Tier 1, AMDT # 8
March 12, 2013 6:50 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives McDermott, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, Pocan, Lujan Grisham, and Huffman

Preventing the End of Medicare as We Know It

1. Strike Section 703 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.

2. At the end of Title VII, add the following:

"Sense of the House on preserving Medicare for seniors and persons with disabilities

(a) The House finds that---

(1) fifty million senior citizens and persons with disabilities rely on Medicare to guarantee their health security;
(2) Medicare has long been a leader in developing innovative ways to contain health care costs while protecting access to high-quality health care; and
(3) the Affordable Care Act of 2010 makes significant progress in modernizing Medicare and represents the United States' best opportunity to develop a framework for continual improvement in Medicare's quality, efficiency, and fiscal sustainability based on solid evidence about which policies actually work to achieve these goals.

(b) It is the sense of the House that the Congress should not protect tax loopholes for the wealthy and special interests while addressing the resulting budget deficits by making changes in law that would:
(1) eliminate guaranteed health insurance benefits for seniors and people with disabilities under the Medicare program;
(2) increase costs for seniors and people with disabilities by establishing a Medicare voucher or premium support plan that provides limited payments to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase health care in the private health insurance market; or
(3) weaken the traditional Medicare program and cause it to wither away by diverting the healthiest enrollees into private plans and undermining traditional Medicare's ability to control costs while offering access to a broad range of providers."

3. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution expresses the sense of the House that Medicare is a highly successful program that provides health security to 50 million senior citizens and disabled individuals, and that it should not be subject to any changes in law that would eliminate the Medicare guarantee of a specific set of health benefits, increase costs for seniors by converting Medicare into a voucher or premium support program, or weaken the traditional Medicare program.

TIER 1, AMDT #9
March 12, 2013 9:13 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lee, Van Hollen, Moore, McDermott, Cicilline, Jeffries, Blumenauer, and Schrader

Eliminate Excess Overseas Contingency Operations Funding to Protect Veterans and other Domestic Priorities, and to Reduce the Deficit

1. Decrease budget authority and outlays for Function 970 by the following amounts.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	23.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000
Outlays	10.952	19.928	31.742	35.831	36.579	37.150	37.186	37.466	38.102	37.694

2. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 600 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure adequate funding for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	0.076	0.078	0.079	0.081	0.083	0.085	0.087	0.090	0.092	0.094
Outlays	0.038	0.061	0.070	0.075	0.080	0.082	0.084	0.086	0.088	0.090

3. Increase funding in Function 920 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to prevent indiscriminate cuts to poverty programs and domestic investments.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	21.704	27.262	34.921	34.919	34.917	34.915	34.913	34.910	34.908	34.906
Outlays	10.913	19.865	27.711	31.288	33.305	33.827	34.166	34.163	34.161	34.159

4. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

5. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution eliminates excess funds budgeted in the Overseas Contingency Operations account. It allocates the resulting savings to deficit reduction ($28 billion over ten years), to ensure funding to help homeless veterans through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program -- a program subject to sequestration -- and to reduce the enormous level of unallocated spending cuts reflected in Function 920. The unallocated spending cuts will otherwise preclude Congress from protecting many other vital programs from harmful cuts, including education, first responders, border security, transportation, veterans, research, and vital human needs programs that lift families out of poverty.

The resolution reduces funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations account for 2014 and eliminates it for 2015 through 2023 to reflect the goal of redeploying all combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The resolution further assumes that if the Administration determines it necessary to continue a residual force presence beyond 2014, funding to support that policy shall be financed from within the base defense budget. The resolution includes $70 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations for 2014.

The Congress has been financing the war in Afghanistan for 12 years through a series of supplemental and special contingency appropriations that are exempt from budget limits. That funding policy was one of the reasons that led former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen to conclude the Pentagon lacked the incentive to make the "tough trades." As the country tackles its fiscal problems, no agency is exempt from prioritizing and making necessary budget tradeoffs, including the Pentagon, an agency with a plethora of new examples of wasteful spending every year, and the last agency yet to pass a clean audit.

TIER I, AMDT #10
March 13, 2013 1:37 AM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Blumenauer, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Pocan, and Schrader

Road to Jobs

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 400 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure that the resolution maintains baseline funding levels for transportation spending, and to prevent the deep budget cuts assumed in the underlying resolution.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	15.376	63.735	23.805	15.221	39.500	17.174	38.618	19.887	39.818	16.681
Outlays	1.981	16.424	27.375	19.131	22.632	27.740	28.879	31.494	33.472	35.124

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution maintains the baseline level of funding for transportation spending, rejecting the deep cuts assumed in the Chairman's mark. Allowing such cuts to take place would have a negative impact on our economy as the cuts occur as contractors have to lay off workers. And their impact could be even more severe in the long-term as we fail to modernize and maintain our transportation infrastructure.

   The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding for infrastructure investments by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

TIER 2, AMDT #11
March 12, 2013 10:50 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Cicilline, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Jeffries, and Huffman

Block Cuts to Education

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 500 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to prevent cuts to federal funding for education for 2014, including Head Start and afterschool services, and to reject the elimination of annual inflationary increases in the maximum Pell grant for the next ten years.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*
BA	9.540	6.930	7.965	9.004	9.084	9.190	9.315	9.452	9.542	9.658
Outlays	7.263	7.269	7.587	8.356	9.170	9.112	9.223	9.351	9.475	9.572

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution assumes federal education funding for early childhood education services, elementary and secondary education, and post-secondary education services are not cut in 2014, and that the annual inflationary increases Congress already enacted for Pell grants are maintained.

   State and local economies were hit hard by the economic recession and face budget shortfalls as the economy recovers. The resulting pressures on state and local budgets have resulted in less funding for education, making it even more important than ever that

TIER 2, AMDT #12
March 12, 2013 11:05 PM

Offered by Representatives Schwartz, Van Hollen, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, and Lujan Grisham

Promote Scientific Jobs and Stop Cuts to Research for Cures for Cancer, Heart Disease, Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, and other Illnesses at the National Institutes of Health

1. Decrease budget authority and outlays for Function 970 to eliminate excess Overseas Contingency Funding by the following amounts in billions of dollars.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018
BA	3.000				
Outlays	1.529	0.897	0.352	0.127	0.037

2. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 550 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure that this resolution does not trigger reductions in research personnel or cuts to research being conducted through the National Institutes of Health for cures to cancer, heart disease, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or any other illnesses.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018
BA	3.000				
Outlays	1.529	0.897	0.352	0.127	0.037

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution preserves funding for basic and applied biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to ensure that vital health-related research is not interrupted and that technical research jobs are not lost.

NIH research prolongs life, reduces disability, and strengthens the economy. NIH is the largest single source of biomedical research in the world, and this research contributes to economic growth in communities across America, producing well-paying jobs for individuals and helping to keep the United States globally competitive. Studies estimate that NIH supports between

351,000 and 432,000 technical jobs that are scattered across each and every state in the country, with an average annual wage of more than $52,000.

NIH investments allow scientists to make fundamental biomedical advances and conduct the clinical research that transforms discoveries into medical practice, improving America's health. The results of its research continue to lead to new treatments to a wide range of illnesses and diseases, revolutionizing patient care. Sudden decreased funding for health science research is inefficient. It can result in substantial delays in projects that are already underway and harms our nation's newest and youngest researchers. Sustained, predictable funding for research will maximize the return on this investment in our nation's future.

The increased funding for vital research and scientific personnel is offset by reducing funding for Function 970. The amendment reduces the 2014 funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations account from $93 billion to $90 billion to account for reduced troop levels in Afghanistan. The Administration has announced its intent to reduce the numbers of deployed personnel in Afghanistan by 34,000 over the next year. The Congressional Budget Office calculated overseas deployments could cost even less -- just $70 billion in 2014 based on a troop drawdown scenario reflecting a reduction of 30,000 deployed personnel from 2013 levels.

the federal government maintain its funding to fill the gaps in education services. Yet unless Congress acts to prevent it, sequestration in 2013 will cut Department of Education funding by $2.4 billion and Head Start funding by over $400 million, jeopardizing education services to millions of students at a time when it is most needed. Therefore, this resolution provides sufficient funding to maintain current levels for education, including the comprehensive early childhood services provided by Head Start and the after-school tutoring and other services provided by 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

In addition, the resolution rejects the policy in the Chairman's Mark that cuts $83 billion by freezing the maximum Pell grant for the next ten years. Congress enacted – and paid for – mandatory annual inflationary increases in 2010, and recently cut Pell grant benefits and eligibility to control costs. Pell grants are the cornerstone of federal student aid, and help make obtaining a college degree a reality for almost 10 million college students each year.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of education funding by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

TIER 2, AMDT #13
March 12, 2013 9:10 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Jeffries, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Yarmuth, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Pocan, Cardenas, Blumenauer, and Schrader

Prevent Student Loan Interest Rates from Doubling

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 500 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect $4.255 billion starting in 2013 to ensure that interest rates on subsidized student loans do not double on July 1, an action that would increase the cost of college for 7 million students facing tough job prospects in the recovering economy.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
BA	1.500				
Outlays	1.855	0.435			

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution assumes sufficient funding to spare college students from increased debt by maintaining the current 3.4 percent interest rate on subsidized student loans through June 2014. Congress gradually cut the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans from 6.8 percent in 2007 to 3.4 percent in 2011. However, that interest rate will double on July 1, 2013, which will add an average of $2,800 in higher loan repayment costs to nearly 7.5 million low- and middle-income borrowers. Obtaining a college degree has a proven positive impact on future employment and salary, but graduates increasingly struggle with high levels of student loan debt; in 2011, two thirds of graduating seniors had student loans, and they faced an average debt of $26,600. Extending the lower interest rate for an additional year protects students from graduating with even higher debt to be repaid at the same time they are looking for work when jobs are scarce.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of student loan funding by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

Tier II, AMDT # 14
March 12, 2013 8:34 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Pascrell, Van Hollen, Moore, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Jeffries, and Blumenauer

Protect the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on the Importance of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

(a) The House finds that---

(1) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was created by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 to protect citizens in their every day dealings with the financial industry.

(2) The Bureau is an important component of the country's response to the financial crisis and recession.

(3) The Bureau's role as part of the Federal Reserve System and reliance on funding from the Fed's operations helps give it independence from efforts to interfere with its important mission and activities.

(4) The Bureau has overcome efforts to obstruct its operations – including a refusal by its Senate opponents to confirm the nomination of a Director -- and begun to play a critical role in protecting student loan borrowers and other consumers.

(b) It is the sense of the House that Congress should support the work of the Bureau as well as its governing and financing structures and not enact roadblocks that interfere with its core mission to ensure consumers have the information they need to make informed financial decisions."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's funding mechanism will remain unchanged, and includes Sense of the House language discussing the importance of the Bureau's work.

TIER 2, AMDT #15
March 12, 2013 8:00 pm

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Huffman, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Yarmuth, Pascrell, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, Pocan, and Blumenauer

Investing in our Future through R&D and Clean Energy

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 270 by the following amounts in billions of dollars in order to support the important research and development supported by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy at the Department of Energy.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
BA	2.111				
Outlays	1.061	0.599	0.235	0.077	0.094

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution recognizes the importance of scientific research to advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy – keys to competing in the global economy. The resolution therefore assumes increased funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E). Investments in these programs contribute to economic growth and job creation while protecting the environment. EERE supports cutting-edge research that delivers energy efficient products and systems to American households and businesses. ARPA-E transforms science into breakthrough technologies that improve energy generation, storage and utilization.

TIER 2, AMDT #16
March 12, 2013 9:12 pm

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Cardenas, Van Hollen, McDermott, Lee, Cicilline, and Jeffries

Reduce the Deficit by Ending Tax Breaks For Special Interests and Millionaires

1. In Title I, increase the recommended levels of revenue for FY 2014 through FY 2023, in billions of dollars, as follows:

2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*
12.000	15.000	18.000	25.000	27.000	30.000	33.000	36.000	39.000	43.000

2. In Title I, decrease the amounts of deficits for FY 2014 through FY 2023, in billions of dollars, as follows:

2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*
12.000	15.000	18.000	25.000	27.000	30.000	33.000	36.000	39.000	43.000

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes the cancelation of a number of egregious or unwarranted tax breaks currently enjoyed by special interests and millionaires, and it dedicates all of the resulting revenues to deficit reduction. The tax breaks that should be ended to lower federal deficits include the following: repealing special depreciation for corporate jets; reducing tax subsidies to major integrated oil and gas companies; closing loopholes in our international tax system that allow corporations to reap tax benefits for shipping jobs and capital overseas, and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; closing the "carried interest" loophole that allows private equity managers like those at Bain Capital to disguise their compensation as capital gains; closing the S-corporation loophole that allows service professionals to shield business income from Medicare taxes; and applying a Buffett rule to ensure that middle class households do not face higher effective tax rates than millionaires. At a time of high deficits and soaring income inequality, the budget must prioritize paying down the deficit in a balanced way that asks the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding for clean energy research and development by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

Tier II, AMDT #17
March 13, 2013 12:09 AM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Schrader, Van Hollen, Schwartz, McDermott, Lee, and Cicilline

Sense of the House on a Long-Term Balanced Approach to Deficit Reduction

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on a Long-Term Balanced Approach to Deficit Reduction

(a) The House finds that---

(1) Whereas discretionary spending reductions since August 2010 will have achieved $1.5 trillion in savings over ten years;
(2) Whereas we have added $700 billion in revenue from the American Taxpayer Relief Act;
(3) Whereas those fiscal reforms have saved $500 billion in future interest payments;
(4) Whereas those efforts have done much good but not yet stabilized deficits and debt;
(5) Whereas sequestration will cause the loss of 750,000 jobs this year alone without dramatically changing our long-term fiscal trajectory;
(6) Therefore, we recognize our continuing need to build upon and improve past efforts to reach fiscal stability; and

(b) It is the sense of the House that---

(1) This and future budget resolutions should achieve and maintain the following benchmarks of fiscal sustainability –
    a. Reduce deficits enough to stabilize debt as a percentage of GDP;
    b. Ensure that the growth rate of debt is less than the growth rate of the economy by FY2023; and
    c. Achieve these future savings with a balanced bipartisan approach that considers all short- and long-term deficit drivers.
(2) The balanced bipartisan approach referenced in (1)(c) should reduce government spending, cut unproductive tax expenditures, achieve long-term fiscal stability, provide our children with access to the social safety net available to their parents, invest in our Nation's future, and give businesses

the certainty necessary to spur job growth. To achieve that goal we should replace sequestration with:

a. Enacting smaller, targeted spending cuts in discretionary accounts;
b. Addressing long-term cost drivers by putting healthcare and mandatory programs on a fiscally sustainable path, such as through measures to reduce cost growth throughout the health care system while improving quality of care, in a way that protects the most vulnerable Americans now and in the future;
c. Enacting substantive tax reform that raises scoreable net revenue by limiting individual and corporate tax expenditures, while preserving the tax rates made permanent for lower- and middle-income Americans, and lowering corporate tax rates to improve U.S. economic competitiveness; and
d. Considering the process and institutional reforms necessary to maintain those savings.

Tier III, AMDT #20
March 12, 2013 11:20 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Cicilline, Schwartz, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Jeffries, Pocan, and Schrader

Protecting Workers and Retirees from the Risks of Social Security Privatization.

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on Social Security Privatization

(a) The House finds that---

(1) Social Security is America's most important retirement resource, especially for seniors, because it provides an income floor to keep them, their spouses and their survivors out of poverty during retirement – benefits earned based on their past payroll contributions;

(2) in January, 56.8 million people relied on Social Security;

(3) Social Security benefits are modest, with an average annual benefit for retirees of about $15,000, which is the majority of total retirement income for more than half of all beneficiaries;

(4) diverting workers' payroll contributions toward private accounts undermines the social safety net by subjecting the workers' retirement decisions and income to the whims of the stock market;

(5) diverting trust fund payroll contributions toward private accounts jeopardizes Social Security because the program will not have the resources to pay full benefits to current retirees; and

(6) privatization increases federal debt because the Treasury will have to borrow additional funds from the public to pay full benefits to current retirees.

(b) It is the sense of the House that Social Security privatization is fiscally irresponsible and would put the retirement security of seniors at risk, and that any Social Security reform legislation shall reject partial or complete privatization of the program that includes private accounts funded by current payroll taxes."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes that any Social Security reform legislation rejects privatization proposals, because the diversion of payroll contributions and reliance on the financial markets undermines the federal budget and the social safety net.

Tier 3, AMDT # 22
3/13/2013 12:06 AM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Cardenas, McDermott, Lee, Jeffries, and Pocan,

Preserve the Mortgage Interest Deduction for Middle Class And Protect the American Dream

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House Rejecting Any Reduction in the Mortgage Interest Deduction

(a) The House finds that---

(1) Homeownership is a pillar of the real economy and a fundamental source of stability for families, neighborhoods, and schools.

(2) Deductions for mortgage interest have been part of the tax code since its inception in 1913.

(3) The mortgage interest deduction is a cornerstone of American housing policy and a beleaguered housing sector that is finally turning the corner.

(4) Reducing the mortgage interest deduction would be harmful to current homebuyers, future homebuyers, and overall economic growth.

(5) Reducing the mortgage interest deduction would be a drain on the largest single source of family savings.

(b) It is the sense of the House that this resolution would not allow taxes to be raised on middle-class taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes below $200,000 ($250,000 for married couples) in the form of reducing these taxpayers' mortgage interest deductions. Raising taxes on working families by reducing their mortgage interest deduction – all for the purpose of providing millionaires with trillions of dollars in tax cuts – will have serious negative consequences, including the following:

(1) Cut purchases of new and existing homes, hurting the housing industry and curbing already fragile economic growth.

(2) unduly burden the finances of working families, making it even harder for them to make ends meet;

(3) reduce consumer spending, which will greatly weaken economic growth and cost the economy millions of jobs over the coming years;

(4) reduce the largest source of private saving and national net worth;

(5) undermine the stability of families, neighborhoods, schools, and ultimately, society;

(6) make the tax code more regressive and further widen the income gap between the wealthiest households and the middle class."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution reflects the tax rates and income thresholds established in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, and expressly opposes any effort to raise taxes on individuals with adjusted gross income below $200,000 or any married couple with adjusted gross income below $250,000 by reducing their mortgage interest deduction.

Tier 3 AMDT # 23
March 12, 2013 10:02 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lee, Moore, McDermott, Cicilline, and Jeffries

Sense of the House on a National Strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Increase Opportunity

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on a National Strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Increase Opportunity

(a) The House finds that---

(1) The prospect of upward mobility should be the right of every American.

(2) Targeted, means-tested federal programs help lift millions of Americans out of poverty.

(3) These programs empower their beneficiaries through job training, educational assistance, adequate food, housing, and healthcare to rise to the middle class.

(4) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program alone lifts over 4 million people out of poverty, including over 2 million children. It is particularly effective in keeping children – over 1 million -- out of deep poverty (below half the poverty line). School breakfast and lunch programs help keep children ready to learn, allowing them to reach their full potential.

(5) The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit together lift over 9 million people, including nearly 5 million children, out of poverty. President Ronald Reagan proposed a major EITC expansion in 1985 and then referred to the 1986 Tax Reform Act, which included the expansion, as "the best antipoverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.

(b) It is the Sense of the House of Representatives that we should support the goal of developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty, with the initial goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years, and to extend equitable access to economic opportunity to all Americans.

As Congress works to protect low income and middle class Americans from the negative impacts of budget cuts and deficit reductions on the critical domestic programs that millions of American families rely on to get by; priority must be given to creating a national strategy on poverty to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programs across federal state and local governments. Improving the effective coordination and oversight across agencies and implementing a true unity of programs under a "whole of government" approach to shared goals and client based outcomes will help to streamline access, improve service delivery, and will strengthen and extend the reach of every federal dollar to fight poverty. The plan must include provisions that work to remove the barriers and obstacles that prevent the most vulnerable Americans from taking advantage of economic and educational opportunities and moving up the ladder of opportunity to join the middle class and reach for the American Dream."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution includes a Sense of the House calling for development of a National Strategy to eliminate poverty. The plan would implement a "whole of government" approach and remove the barriers and obstacles that prevent the most vulnerable Americans from taking advantage of opportunities and moving to join the middle class and reach for the American Dream.

Tier 3, AMDT # 24
March 12, 2013 9:27 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Moore, McDermott, and Lee

Importance of Child Support Enforcement

At the end of Title 7, add the following:

"Sense of the House on the Importance of Child Support Enforcement

It is the sense of the House that---

(1) additional legislative action is needed to ensure that States have the necessary resources to collect all child support that is owed to families and to allow them to pass 100 percent of support on to families without financial penalty; and

(2) when 100 percent of child support payments are passed to the child, rather than administrative expenses, program integrity is improved and child support participation increases."

TIER 3, AMDT #26
March 13, 2013 11:30 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lujan Grisham, Moore, McDermott, Lee, Jeffries, and Cardenas

Protect Native American Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Health from Republican Cuts

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 550 by the following amounts in millions of dollars to ensure that this resolution does not require cuts to the critical services provided by the Indian Health Service, and to ensure that two million Native Americans living on or near reservations receive quality, culturally competent healthcare.

	2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	2018
BA	220				
Outlays	111	62	25	8	9

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; or 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.

4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

   The resolution rejects polices favoring tax breaks for the wealthiest members of our society at the expense of protecting access to comprehensive, culturally competent personal and public health services for Native Americans. The Indian Health Service is responsible for providing federal health services to Native Americans who are members of the 566 federally recognized Tribes across the United States. The special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes was established in 1787, and is based on Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. This relationship has been codified by numerous treaties, laws, Supreme Court decisions, and Executive Orders.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of health funding to ensure that two million Native Americans living on or near reservations receive quality, culturally competent healthcare by reducing or eliminating the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; and tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above $1 million annually.

Tier 3, AMDT #28
Revised March 13, 2013 8:10 PM

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Schrader, McDermott, Lee, Lujan Grisham, and Ribble

Support Rural Counties and Schools

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that makes changes to or provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, if such legislation requires sustained yield timber harvests obviating the need for funding under P.L. 106-393 in the future and would not increase the deficit or direct spending for fiscal year 2014, the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, or the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

This resolution assumes legislation assumes the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) is extended in order to provide the federal government, local counties, and industry the time necessary to enact, implement, and begin preforming sustained yield harvests of federal timber lands on which local counties are financially dependent. The plan assumed by this resolution is based on the best available science, provides for active forest management to improve the health of the resource, creates strong local family-wage job markets, and provides rural counties with fiscal independence from federal payments owed to them because of a lack of timber harvests on federal lands.