AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 5779
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 7. PROTECT MEDICARE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Medicare represent a commitment made by this country decades ago to honor the dignity and independence of senior citizens and disabled citizens.

(2) Medicare protects 63.9 million senior citizens and persons with disabilities from potentially catastrophic health care costs.

(3) Despite the importance of this program in guaranteeing health security for seniors and persons with disabilities, without new revenue, the Hospital Insurance trust fund is expected to become insolvent in 2031.

(4) The Medicare Trustees project that Medicare expenditures will increase in future years at a faster pace than either aggregate workers’ earnings or the economy overall and that, as a percentage of GDP, spending will increase from 3.7 percent in 2022 to 6.1 percent by 2097.
(5) Given the bedrock importance of this program, we must reject policies that eliminate the Medicare guarantee of a specific set of health benefits, convert Medicare into a voucher or premium support program, increase costs for seniors and persons with disabilities, or weaken the traditional Medicare program.

(6) We must enact policies to strengthen the traditional Medicare program and extend its solvency, for example by enacting proposals in the FY 2024 President’s Budget.

(b) Policy on Protecting Medicare for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.—The Fiscal Commission shall propose recommendations to strengthen and secure Medicare by—

(1) protecting the traditional Medicare program; and

(2) extending Medicare solvency, which may include—

(A) requiring taxpayers with incomes above $400,000 to contribute more to Medicare; and

(B) closing a tax loophole that allows wealthy owners of pass-through businesses with
more than $400,000 in annual income to avoid Medicare taxes.