

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 home- and community-based supports that seniors may choose 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.