

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives McDermott, Van Hollen, Pascrell, Castor, Pocan, and
Doggett

Protect Access to Primary Care in Medicaid

1. Increase mandatory budget authority and outlays for Function 550 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure those relying on Medicaid have access to primary care.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Outlays	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4

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; 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually; or adoption of 5) selected business tax reform proposals from Title III of the Tax Reform Act of 2014 such as repealing the existing exemptions to the \$1 million limit on compensation for CEOs and other specified corporate employees that a publicly traded corporation can deduct as a business expense.
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 protects access to primary care for Medicaid enrollees by providing federal funding for states to maintain primary care reimbursement rates for physicians at 100 percent of the Medicare rate, and by extending these rates to independent mid-level providers. Because of state budget pressures, prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid paid physicians an average of 58 percent of Medicare reimbursement rates for primary care, a gap that had widened over time. These low reimbursement rates sometimes led to a lack of access to primary care among Medicaid beneficiaries, as noted several times in the Republican Budget Committee Report, The War on Poverty: 50 Years Later (p.106). That Report explains that Medicaid has

traditionally paid less than Medicare, and that this differential in payment rates contributes to access problems for Medicaid enrollees.

Access to a regular primary care physician improves health and increases receipt of recommended preventive services, such as vaccines. It also allows people to seek timely care for medical conditions before they become more serious and more expensive to treat and having a regular doctor is associated with fewer preventable hospital emergency department visits. Among the low-income population that is served by Medicaid, access to primary care is associated with better management of chronic conditions and reduced mortality.

The Affordable Care Act increased Medicaid payments to primary care providers by an average of 73 percent in 2013 and 2014 with 100 percent federal funding. Increased reimbursement rates have been associated with increases in the number of participating physicians in Medicaid. The resolution provides funding to maintain these payment rates to protect continued access to primary care providers for Medicaid enrollees. In addition, the resolution accommodates funding to extend the increased payment rates to certain mid-level providers, such as nurse practitioners, who practice independently.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding to ensure access to primary care services in Medicaid by reducing or eliminating some of 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; tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually; or adopting selected business tax reform proposals from the Tax Reform Act of 2014 such as repealing the existing exemptions to the \$1 million limit on compensation for CEOs and other specified corporate employees that a publicly traded corporation can deduct as a business expense.