

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

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

Protect Help with Prescription Drug Costs and Other Valuable Medicare Benefits for Seniors

1. At the end of Title VI 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) 7.9 million people with Medicare have already saved a total of \$9.9 billion on their prescription drugs, averaging \$1,265 per beneficiary, as a result of the Affordable Care Act;
- (3) 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 drug costs for seniors who would otherwise fall into the Medicare prescription drug benefit's coverage gap, or “doughnut hole,” by nearly \$2,000 by 2022 by gradually closing the coverage gap;
- (4) in 2013, an estimated 37.2 million people with Medicare took advantage of at least one preventive service with no cost sharing, and more than 4 million took advantage of the annual wellness visit; and
- (5) 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It is the sense of the House that the important benefits for seniors provided by the Affordable Care Act should not be repealed.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 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.