AMDT #23

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

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

Truth in Budgeting Regarding Affordable Care Act Savings and Expiring Tax Provisions

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

"Truth in Budgeting Requirement Regarding Affordable Care Act Savings

(a) Whereas---

(1) the supporting document for this concurrent resolution, "A Balanced Budget for a Stronger America," released by the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget on March 17, 2015, states on page 17, "This budget repeals Obamacare in its entirety – including all of the tax increases";

(2) page 39 of the supporting document displays budgetary savings of $2.042 trillion from zeroing out the Affordable Care Act, an amount that is consistent with repealing only the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion and Exchange subsidies while leaving the Act's revenues and Medicare savings in place;

(3) In the 113th Congress, the House of Representatives approved legislation increasing deficits by nearly a trillion dollars through 2024 by making expiring tax provisions permanent without offsetting the cost of reduced revenues. In the first three months of the 114th Congress, the House of Representatives approved legislation that would increase deficits by almost $100 billion through 2025 by making expiring tax provisions permanent without offsetting the reduced revenues. In addition, the Committee on Ways and Means has reported other bills to make expiring tax provisions permanent without any offset for the reduced revenues that would increase deficits by more than an additional $200 billion through 2025;

(4) Clause 10 of Rule XXI of Rules of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress makes it out of order to consider legislation that increases deficits by increasing mandatory spending but does not make it out of order to consider legislation that increases deficits by reducing revenues;

(5) the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation project that permanently extending about 70 tax provisions that have either expired or are scheduled to expire during the ten years covered by the budget resolution would reduce federal revenues through 2025 by $898 billion;

(6) the aggregates and revenue levels in this concurrent resolution are equal to the revenue levels projected to occur under current law, which includes the revenues generated by the Affordable Care Act and the revenues projected to occur if all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code set to expire by the end of 2025 do expire as scheduled;

(7) the aggregates and Function 570 spending levels in the budget resolution reflect levels consistent with retaining all of the Affordable Care Act's policies that save money in Medicare by reducing waste and promoting efficient, high-quality care;

(8) if this budget resolution reflected the full cost of repealing the Affordable Care Act's revenue increases, as well as the full cost of permanently extending all expiring tax provisions, the deficits displayed for the period of fiscal years 2016-2025 would increase by more than $2 trillion, and if the resolution reflected the full cost of repealing the Affordable Care Act's Medicare provisions, deficits would increase by an additional amount exceeding $700 billion, and the resolution would reflect a deficit of several hundred billion dollars in 2025 instead of a small surplus;

(9) an inconsistency in excess of $2 trillion between the aggregates and levels assumed in the budget resolution and the policies that those aggregates and levels purport to represent undermines any claim to transparency in budgeting or to truth in budgeting;

(b) it shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148 and Title I and Subtitle B of Title II of P.L. 111-152) or to provide permanent extensions of expiring tax provisions, if the House, during the same Congress, has agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget that assumes the Affordable Care Act's current-law revenue increases or Medicare outlay reductions in its allocations, aggregates, and levels, or that assumes the revenues projected to occur if all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code set to expire by the end of 2025 do expire as scheduled; unless such bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report includes outlay reductions or revenue increases sufficient to offset in full the deficit increases associated with such Affordable Care Act repeal or extension of expiring tax provisions."

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

The resolution creates a point of order against House consideration of legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act in its entirety or to provide permanent extensions of expiring tax provisions if such legislation would increase the deficit, if the House has approved a concurrent resolution on the budget that relies on the revenue increases and Medicare savings from the Affordable Care Act as well as the expiration of those tax provisions to achieve balance.