

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Boyle, Yarmuth, Lee, Lujan Grisham, Jeffries, Higgins, DelBene, Wasserman Schultz, Khanna, Jayapal, Carbajal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

**Protect Medicare**

1. Strike section 507 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.
2. At the end of Title V, add the following:

**“POLICY STATEMENT ON PRESERVING MEDICARE BENEFITS FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

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

- (1) Sixty million senior citizens and persons with disabilities rely on Medicare to guarantee their health security;
- (2) People with Medicare have the option of choosing traditional Medicare or a private Medicare Advantage health plan, and nearly two-thirds of beneficiaries choose traditional Medicare;
- (3) Medicare has long been a leader in developing innovative ways to contain health care costs while protecting access to high-quality health care;
- (4) Medicare spending per beneficiary has grown at less than the rate of inflation since 2010; and
- (5) Medicare has made significant progress since 2010 in developing a framework for continual improvement in Medicare's quality, efficiency, and fiscal sustainability based on solid evidence about which policies actually work to achieve these goals.

(b) POLICY ON PRESERVING MEDICARE FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. — It is the policy of this resolution that the Congress should not cut taxes for millionaires, billionaires, and corporations and address the resulting budget deficits by making changes in law that would:

- (1) eliminate guaranteed health insurance benefits for seniors and people with disabilities under the Medicare program;

- (2) establish a Medicare voucher or premium support plan that provides limited payments to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase health care in the private health insurance market;
- (3) increase costs faced by seniors and people with disabilities;
- (4) increase the eligibility age for Medicare benefits; or
- (5) weaken the traditional Medicare program and cause it to wither away by diverting the healthiest enrollees into private plans and undermining traditional Medicare's ability to control costs while offering access to a broad range of providers.”

- 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 affirms that Medicare is a highly successful program that provides health security to 60 million senior citizens and disabled individuals. The resolution takes the position that Medicare should not be subject to any changes in law that would 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; increase the eligibility age for Medicare; or weaken the traditional Medicare program.