



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

B-71 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 226-7200 ★ democrats.budget.house.gov

Chris Van Hollen,
Ranking Democrat

March 28, 2012

What Outside Groups Are Saying About the FY 2013 Republican Budget and the Latest GOP Plan to End the Medicare Guarantee

On Medicare:

- **“This is a budget that doubles-down on an ideological quest to turn Medicare into a privatized voucher program – stacking the deck against traditional Medicare and creating a death spiral leading to its demise. Under the GOP/Ryan plan, if seniors want the same level of coverage and access to health providers they’ve had in the past, they’ll have to pay more. If they can’t pay more, they’ll have to settle for less.”**
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, March 20, 2012
- **“However, rather than recognizing that health care is an unavoidable necessity which must be made more affordable for all Americans, this proposal simply shifts these high and growing costs onto Medicare beneficiaries, and it then shifts even higher costs of increased uninsured care onto everyone else. The typical Medicare beneficiary today, living on an income of roughly \$20,000, already struggles to pay for their ever-rising health and prescription drug costs – and nearly 20 percent of their income currently goes to health care costs. By creating a "premium support" system for future Medicare beneficiaries, the proposal is likely to simply increase costs for beneficiaries while removing Medicare's promise of secure health coverage – a guarantee that future seniors have contributed to through a lifetime of hard work.”**
AARP, March 21, 2012
- **“The House Republicans’ budget and Medicare proposals are out . . . and we’ve heard this before. . . Yet again the Republican plan would dismantle Medicare and hand older and disabled people a voucher toward the cost of private insurance. It’s not a new or creative idea, and it will actually add more costs to families and to our nation’s bottom line . . . As private plans aggressively court the healthiest and least costly beneficiaries, the traditional Medicare program would be left with an ever dwindling pool of beneficiaries – those who are too sick and poor to purchase private insurance with the help of Mr. Ryan’s coupon. In time, Medicare will ‘wither on the vine,’ as those who oppose the program have long intended.”**
Center for Medicare Advocacy, March 20, 2012

- **“Let’s be clear, the budget introduced today by Representative Ryan is still a voucher plan that ends the Medicare program as we know it. The budget may include a few new provisions compared to 2011, but the premise is still exactly the same – Medicare beneficiaries ... pay more for health care and the federal government pays a lot less. The proposal replaces Medicare’s guaranteed benefits with a “premium support” payment that consumers can use to buy private insurance or, in a new twist, the traditional Original Medicare program. However, there is no guarantee that the subsidy or voucher would match the rate at which health care costs increase. This means that in order to buy adequate coverage, people with Medicare and their families will need to pay more out of pocket.”**

Medicare Rights Center, March 20, 2012

- **“The House Republican budget proposal fundamentally transforms Medicare . . . Seniors and people with disabilities would receive a fixed amount of money to purchase health insurance through private plans or traditional Medicare, and each year, the portion of the premium that would be paid by Medicare would get smaller and smaller and the portion paid by seniors would grow larger and larger.”**

Families USA, March 20, 2012

- **“The Republican budget . . . ends Medicare as we know it to give massive tax breaks to the super-rich. Their budget would repeal the Affordable Care Act, tear down the safety net and shift massive costs to the states. . . The message from Republicans is that America is doomed unless we abandon the American Dream. The Republicans are offering a second-rate vision for a first-rate country.”**

Health Care for America Now, March 20, 2012

- **“The Ryan plan would . . . replace Medicare’s guarantee of health coverage with premium-support payments to seniors ... that they would use to buy coverage from private insurance companies or traditional Medicare. ... Under the Ryan budget, moreover, Medicare would no longer make payments to health care providers such as doctors and hospitals; it would instead provide premium-support vouchers to beneficiaries that they’d use to help buy coverage from private insurance companies or traditional Medicare. Therefore, the only way to keep Medicare cost growth within the GDP +0.5 percentage-point target would be to limit the annual increase in the government’s premium-support vouchers. That would very likely cause the vouchers to grow more slowly than health care costs – and hence purchase less coverage with each passing year. Over time, more costs would likely be pushed on to beneficiaries.”**

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, March 20, 2012

- **“The budget proposed today by House Republicans is a blueprint of what our country would look like under their control – a government of, by and for the 1% . . . There’s nothing courageous about cutting Social Security and Medicare for seniors in order to cut taxes for the super-wealthy. House Republicans have dropped all pretenses and laid out their plan to destroy Medicare and Social Security. This plan would end Medicare as we know it and shift the health care cost burden to seniors, and it endorses significant cuts in Social Security benefits for middle class seniors.”**

AFL-CIO, March 20, 2012

On the Social Safety Net and Shared Responsibility:

- **“It is deeply troubling that, in the name of deficit reduction, there is absolutely no shared sacrifice. The House Budget proposes to decimate the Medicaid program, taking away essential health and long term services and support for our middle and low income citizens, while providing tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations. It should be called the ‘fend for yourself’ budget.”**

The Arc, March 20, 2012

- **“The budget put forth by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan pursues a dangerous vision . . . Nearly everything shrinks in this vision of America, but two things grow: military spending and tax cuts for the richest Americans. . . The shift of resources away from most Americans to the very rich is breathtaking.”**

Coalition on Human Needs, March 21, 2012

- **“The budget . . . proposes devastating cuts to programs especially important to women and their families: Medicare, Medicaid, child care, education, SNAP – and much more. At the same time, it proposes trillions in new tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and large corporations on top of the disproportionate benefits the very wealthy would receive from extending all of the Bush-era tax cuts.”**

National Women’s Law Center, March 27, 2012

- **“Rep. Ryan’s proposal would gut the essential protections of Medicaid, opening the door for states to completely eliminate the family planning services it provides . . . [It] overlooks the fact that investing in family planning actually helps reduce the deficit. Studies show that for every public dollar invested in family planning programs, taxpayers save nearly \$4.”**

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, March 20, 2012

On Education and Training:

- “It is morally unacceptable and economically indefensible for House Republicans to put forth a budget that doubles down on a cuts-only approach to our economy at a time when our children and families continue to struggle to get by . . . **This budget prioritizes huge tax breaks for the wealthy and big corporations**, while likely cutting money from public education and programs such as Title I that go directly to support low-income children in the classroom. **It would end Medicare as we know it and leave seniors without access to affordable, high-quality health care, and it would make college more costly.**”

American Federation of Teachers, March 20, 2012

- “Yet Chairman Ryan’s FY 2013 budget resolution appears to nearly eliminate funding for federal job training programs that help U.S. workers and employers obtain critical **workforce skills** – reducing budget authority for Function 500 programs by more than \$16 billion (22 percent) compared to FY 2012 – **while also proposing major funding cuts to Pell Grants for low-income students. These proposed cuts simply could not come at a worse time for our nation’s economic growth and competitiveness.**”

Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce, March 27, 2012

On National Security:

- “As retired flag and general officers from all branches of the Armed Services, we urge you to support a strong FY13 International Affairs Budget and to oppose disproportionate cuts to this vital account. We firmly believe the development and diplomacy programs in the International Affairs Budget are critical to America’s national security.”

Military Leaders’ Letter to Congress, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, March 27, 2012

- “A 10% cut for FY 2013, as proposed by House Budget Committee Chair Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin), would undermine current efforts to make the delivery of aid even more effective, transparent and accountable. **At a time when our military is disengaging from two wars, people in North Africa and the Middle East are fighting to build democracies, and humanitarian crises continue around the world, we need to be stepping up our civilian international engagement, not pulling back.**”

InterAction, March 22, 2012

Groups Opposing the Fiscal Year 2013 Republican Budget

(oppose it in whole or in part; *individually* and/or as part of a coalition*)

As of 9:52 AM, March 28, 2012

1. 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women
2. AAMC – Association of American Medical Colleges
3. AARP
4. AcademyHealth
5. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
6. AFL-CIO
7. AFT – American Federation of Teachers
8. AIDS United
9. Alliance for Children and Families
10. Alzheimer’s Association
11. American Academy of Pediatrics
12. American Academy of Physician Assistants
13. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
14. American Association for Dental Research
15. American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
16. American Association of Colleges of Nursing
17. American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
18. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
19. American Association of Health and Disability
20. American Association of Clinical Pharmacy
21. American Association of People with Disabilities
22. American Association of Poison Control Centers
23. American Association of University Women (AAUW)
24. American Bird Conservancy
25. American College of Physicians
26. American College of Preventive Medicine
27. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
28. American Dental Association
29. American Dental Education Association
30. American Diabetes Association
31. American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO
32. The American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO
33. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
34. American Friends Service Committee
35. American Heart Association
36. American Humane Association
37. American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
38. American Jewish Committee
39. American Lung Association
40. American Network of Community Options and Resources
41. American Nurses Association
42. American Optometric Association
43. American Organization of Nurse Executives
44. American Podiatric Medical Association
45. American Psychiatric Association
46. American Psychological Association
47. American Public Health Association
48. American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
49. American Society for Microbiology
50. American Society of Hematology
51. American Society of Nephrology
52. Americans for Democratic Action
53. AmfAR
54. APALA Education Fund
55. The Arc
56. Arthritis Foundation
57. Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
58. Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
59. Association of Academic Health Centers
60. Association of American Medical Colleges
61. Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
62. Association for Career and Technical Education

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As of 9:52 AM, March 28, 2012

63. Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
64. Association for Psychological Science
65. Association of Public Health Laboratories
66. Association of Schools of Public Health
67. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
68. *AUCD – Association of University Centers on Disabilities*
69. Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
70. *Association of Zoos and Aquariums*
71. *Bat Conservation International*
72. *Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law*
73. Bread for the World
74. Campaign for America’s Future
75. Campaign for Community Change
76. Campaign for Youth Justice
77. *Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce*
78. Catholic Charities USA
79. *Catholics United*
80. *CCD – Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities*
81. Center for American Progress
82. Center for Community Change
83. Center for Economic and Policy Research
84. *Center for Law and Social Policy*
85. Center for People in Need
86. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*
87. Child Welfare League of America
88. Children’s Defense Fund
89. Children’s Hospital Association
90. *CMA – Center for Medicare Advocacy*
91. Church Women United
92. Cities for Progress/Cities for Peace
93. Citizens for Tax Justice
94. *Coalition for Health Funding**
95. *Coalition on Human Needs**
96. Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
97. *Committee for Education Funding*
98. Community Action Partnership
99. Congressional Hunger Center
100. Corporation for Enterprise Development
101. Council for Opportunity in Education
102. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
103. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
104. *Defenders of Wildlife*
105. *Easter Seals*
106. The Education Trust
107. *EPI – Economic Policy Institute*
108. *Endangered Species Coalition*
109. Epilepsy Foundation
110. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
111. The Every Child Matters Education Fund
112. *Faith in Public Life*
113. *Families USA*
114. *Federation of American Hospitals*
115. Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
116. Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
117. Feeding America
118. *First Focus*
119. Food Research & Action Center
120. Franciscan Action Network
121. Friends Committee on National Legislation
122. Generations United
123. *Half in Ten*
124. *Health Care for America Now*
125. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
126. Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
127. *Human Rights Campaign*
128. Human Service Coalition of Oregon
129. Infectious Diseases Society of America
130. *InterAction*
131. International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
132. International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW
133. Institute for Women’s Policy Research

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As of 9:52 AM, March 28, 2012

134. Jewish Council for Public Affairs
135. The Jewish Federations of North America
136. *The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**
137. League of Women Voters of the U.S.
138. Learning Disabilities Association of America
139. Legal Momentum
140. Lutheran Services in America
141. March of Dimes Foundation
142. *Medicare Rights Center*
143. Mennonite Central Committee
144. *Mental Health America*
145. NAACP
146. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
147. National Alliance to End Homelessness
148. National Association for College Admission Counseling
149. National Association of Community Health Centers
150. National Association of County and City Health Officials
151. National Association of Local Boards of Health
152. National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
153. National Association for State Community Services Programs
154. National Association for the Education of Young Children
155. *NAPH – National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems*
156. National Association of Social Workers
157. National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
158. National Child Support Enforcement Association
159. National Coalition for the Homeless
160. *National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*
161. National Community Action Foundation
162. National Community Reinvestment Coalition
163. National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
164. National Consumer Law Center
165. National Council of Jewish Women
166. National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
167. National Disability Rights Network
168. National Education Association
169. The National Employment Law Project
170. National Energy Assistance Directors' Association
171. National Fair Housing Alliance
172. *National Farmers Union*
173. National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
174. National Head Start Association
175. National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)
176. National Housing Trust
177. National Human Services Assembly
178. National Immigration Law Center
179. National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)
180. National Low Income Housing Coalition
181. National Network of Public Health Institutes
182. National Organization for Women
183. National Partnership for Women & Families
184. National Priorities Project
185. *National Resources Defense Council*
186. National Rural Education Association
187. National Rural Health Association
188. *National Skills Coalition*
189. National WIC Association
190. *National Wildlife Refuge Association*
191. *National Women's Law Center*
192. National Youth Employment Coalition
193. Nemours
194. NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
195. OMB Watch
196. Oregon Food Bank
197. Physician Assistant Education Association
198. *Planned Parenthood Federation of America*

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As of 9:52 AM, March 28, 2012

199. Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
200. Poverty and Race Research Action Council
201. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
202. Public Health Institute
203. Religious Action Center
204. Research!America
205. Research Institute for Independent Living
206. RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty
207. Salvation Army, National Social Services Office
208. Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
209. Seekers Church
210. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
211. *Sierra Club*
212. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Inc.
213. Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
214. Society for Neuroscience
215. *Sojourners*
216. Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
217. Trust for America's Health
218. United Church of Christ – Justice and Witness Ministries
219. United for a Fair Economy
220. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society and General Board of Global Ministries
221. United Steelworkers
222. United Way of America
223. USAction
224. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
225. *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition*
226. U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute
227. *US PIRG*
228. Voices for America's Children
229. Volunteers of America
230. WAND Education Fund, Inc.
231. Wider Opportunities for Women
232. *The Wildlife Society*
233. WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
234. World Knowledge Bank
235. *Young Invincibles*
236. YouthBuild USA
237. YWCA USA