



## Budget Digest – Week of March 6<sup>th</sup>

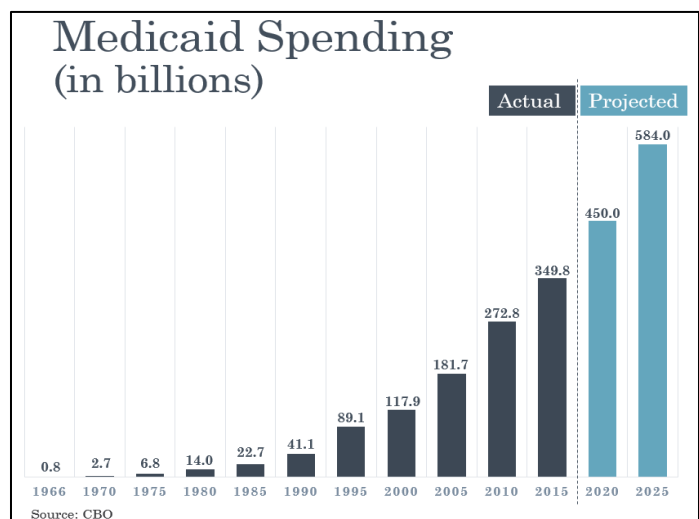
### PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH CARE

In response to the fiscal year 2017 reconciliation instructions, the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means this week are taking up patient-centered health care reforms. Policies under consideration would provide a stable transition from Obamacare’s Washington mandates and unchecked spending to patient-centered reforms including the following:

**Access and Affordability.** The plan provides for portable, monthly tax credits not tied to a job or a Washington-mandated program. The credit is based on age, so it evolves with the health care needs of the individual over time. Further, the tax credit would be available for individuals with no other form of insurance to take with them from job to job, to take home to start a business, or to raise a family. Lower costs, resulting from increased competition and choice under this plan, will provide greater access to care for everyday Americans.

**Choices.** More options will be available for individuals and families, who will be free to choose the health plan that best meets their needs. Protections and access to care for individuals with pre-existing conditions will continue. Further, by increasing the amount of money that can be placed in Health Savings Accounts, coupled with other reforms, individuals and families can spend and save their health care dollars the way they want.

**State Flexibility.** Medicaid would be modernized for the 21st Century. The program is on an unsustainable path (see figure). Significant reforms will ensure the program is available for the populations it was intended to serve: children, pregnant women, the aged, and the disabled. A reformed payment structure would give States greater flexibility and control to meet their varied needs. States will also have the opportunity to assist high-risk individuals or fund innovation programs to care for their unique patient populations.



The Committee on the Budget anticipates marking up the fiscal year 2017 reconciliation bill next week. For more information on reconciliation visit: [budget.house.gov/FY17reconciliation](http://budget.house.gov/FY17reconciliation).