

- Strengthening - **MEDICARE *for* SENIORS**

Reverse the Curse: U.S. House Budget Resolution (FY24-FY33)

Generations of Americans have paid into and come to rely on the Medicare promise of health security, making it critical that **we protect and strengthen the program**. Medicare is now the largest federal health program by spending and the second largest by enrollment. Last year alone, gross costs from the Medicare program totaled \$937 billion, and the Congressional Budget Office projects spending to more than double by 2033, exceeding \$2 trillion.

As a result of an aging population and increasing health care costs, the program faces significant long-term fiscal challenges. That is why our budget proposes a **bipartisan fiscal commission** to examine solutions to protect Medicare and Social Security and **supports strengthening Medicare for current and future generations** by reducing inefficient spending, protecting benefits, and decreasing out-of-pocket costs for seniors:

Creating Payment Parity for the Same Services:

Our budget supports equalizing Medicare payments for health care services regardless of the site of care, reducing out-of-pocket costs for seniors and decreasing Medicare spending. Currently, a hospital outpatient department is paid substantially more by Medicare for the same service compared to other lower cost delivery settings such as a physician's office, which leads to higher Medicare spending and increased costs for seniors.

Improving Uncompensated Care:

Our budget supports reforming uncompensated care payments by removing the payment from the Medicare Trust Fund and establishing a new uncompensated care fund to distribute payments to providers based on their share of charity care and non-Medicare bad debt.

Aligning Medicare with the Private Sector:

Our budget supports bringing Medicare more in line with the private sector by gradually reducing the amount that Medicare reimburses providers for bad debt, reducing Medicare Trust Fund expenditures.

Streamlining Graduate Medical Education (GME):

This budget supports streamlining GME payments and providing greater freedom and flexibility to encourage teaching institutions and states to develop innovative approaches to medical education so more doctors can be trained under the current system.



CHAIR JODEY ARRINGTON

**HOUSE BUDGET
COMMITTEE**