

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lujan Grisham, Van Hollen, Pascrell, Castor, McDermott, Lee, Pocan, and Dingell

Preventing the End of Medicare as We Know It

1. Strike section 601(b)(3)(A) and section 808 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.
2. At the end of Title VIII, add the following:

“Sense of the House on preserving Medicare for seniors and persons with disabilities.

(a) The House finds that---

 - (1) more than 55 million senior citizens and persons with disabilities rely on Medicare to guarantee their health security;
 - (2) Medicare has long been a leader in developing innovative ways to contain health care costs while protecting access to high-quality health care; and
 - (3) the Affordable Care Act of 2010 makes significant progress in modernizing Medicare and represents the United States' best opportunity to develop 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) It is the sense of the House that the Congress should not protect tax loopholes for the wealthy and special interests while addressing 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) increase costs for seniors and people with disabilities by establishing a Medicare voucher or premium support plan that provides limited payments to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase health care in the private health insurance market; or
 - (3) 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. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution expresses the sense of the House that Medicare is a highly successful program that provides health security to more than 55 million senior citizens and disabled individuals, and that it should not be subject to any changes in law that would eliminate the Medicare guarantee of a specific set of health benefits, increase costs for seniors by converting Medicare into a voucher or premium support program, or weaken the traditional Medicare program.