

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representative Higgins

Protect Medicare Benefits and Solvency

1. Strike section 404 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.
2. At the end of Title IV, add the following:

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

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

- (1) Medicare represent a commitment made by this country decades ago to honor the dignity and independence of senior citizens and disabled citizens;
- (2) Medicare protects over 57 million senior citizens and almost 8 million persons with disabilities from potentially catastrophic health care costs;
- (3) Despite the importance of this program in guaranteeing health security for seniors and persons with disabilities, without new revenue, the Hospital Insurance trust fund is expected to become insolvent in 2031;
- (4) The Medicare Trustees project that Medicare expenditures will increase in future years at a faster pace than either aggregate workers' earnings or the economy overall and that, as a percentage of GDP, spending will increase from 3.7 percent in 2022 to 6.1 percent by 2097;
- (5) Given the bedrock importance of this program, we must reject policies that 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, or weaken the traditional Medicare program; and
- (6) We must enact policies to strengthen the traditional Medicare program and extend its solvency, for example by enacting proposals in the FY 2024 President's Budget.

(b) POLICY ON PROTECTING MEDICARE FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. — It is the policy of this resolution that the Congress strengthen and secure Medicare by making changes in law that would:

(1) Strengthen the traditional Medicare program;

(2) Extend Medicare solvency. This may include:

- i. Requiring taxpayers with incomes above \$400,000 to contribute more to Medicare as proposed in the FY 2024 President’s Budget; or
- ii. Closing a tax loophole that allows wealthy owners of pass-through businesses with more than \$400,000 in annual income to avoid Medicare taxes as proposed in the FY 2024 President’s Budget.”

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman’s mark.