

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representative Kildee

**Protect Medicare Benefits and Solvency**

1. Strike section 406 of the Chairman's mark and insert the following:

**SEC. 406. POLICY STATEMENT ON PROTECTING MEDICARE BENEFITS FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

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

- (1) Medicare represents a commitment made by this country decades ago to honor the dignity and independence of senior citizens and disabled citizens;
- (2) Medicare protects 63.9 million senior citizens and 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 6.0 percent by 2047;
- (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 protect the traditional Medicare program and extend its solvency, for example by requiring taxpayers with incomes above \$400,000 to contribute more to Medicare.

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

- (1) Protect the traditional Medicare program; and
- (2) Extend Medicare solvency, which may include -

- a. Requiring taxpayers with incomes above \$400,000 to contribute more to Medicare; and
- b. Closing tax loopholes that allow wealthy taxpayers to avoid Medicare taxes.

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution affirms that Medicare is a critical program that protects 63.9 million senior citizens and persons with disabilities from potentially catastrophic health care costs. The resolution supports protecting these benefits and making changes in law that would ask the wealthy to pay their fair share, thereby ensuring that the Medicare program is available for generations of Americans to come.