

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representative Amo

Policy on Medicare

1. At the end of Title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4003. POLICY STATEMENT ON DO NO HARM TO MEDICARE.

(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 68 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 2036;
- (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 3.8 percent in 2023 to 8.4 percent by 2098;
- (5) Given the bedrock importance of this program, we must reject policies that weaken the Medicare program; and
- (6) We must enact policies to protect Medicare and extend its solvency, for example by requiring wealthy taxpayers to contribute more to Medicare.

(b) POLICY ON DO NO HARM TO MEDICARE. — 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 wealthy taxpayers 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 68 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.