

House Committee on the Budget

Member Day Hearing

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Remarks by the Honorable Congressman Aaron Bean

Good morning Mr. Chairman and good morning Budget Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today. What if we could go back to April 1912?

Mr. Chairman, our nation is on a collision course. Our national debt is now a staggering 38 trillion dollars. Nearly SEVEN times what it was at the start of the 21st century. Our Social Security and Medicare systems are quickly approaching insolvency. And thanks to what Einstein called the eighth wonder of the world, compounded interest, annual interest on our debt has surpassed what we spend on Medicare and national defense.

The safer course is one this committee has been working towards- pre-pandemic spending levels. Covid is over, yet we continue to spend like it's still here.

One of the most significant drivers of our national debt is healthcare spending. In fact, the United States spends almost \$5 trillion per year on healthcare alone, or about \$14,500 per person. While this may seem noble, the United States remains one of the unhealthiest populations in the world. Something clearly needs to change.

In 2010, when President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, the average family health insurance premium was about \$14,000. Today, that same premium is about \$25,000. That's a 78% increase in just fifteen years, nearly double the rate of inflation.

When Washington promises to make something "affordable" by borrowing unlimited sums and inserting itself as a middleman, the only thing it guarantees is higher prices and crushing debt. While Washington will spend the next several months arguing over solutions to healthcare affordability, the conversation cannot simply be about how much more money we should spend on the problem. Instead, we need to address the root causes of the explosive increase in health care costs, rather than mask them with more unsustainable spending.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for being a voice for fiscal conservatism throughout your tenure and for being a warrior for spending reduction. As we approach the new year, let us all resolve to turn this ship around.