

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Wasserman Schultz, Van Hollen, Schwartz, McCollum, Pascrell, Ryan (OH), Moore, Castor, Bass, and Bonamici

Stop Cuts to Care for Seniors in Nursing Homes

This amendment reverses the Republican budget's extreme \$810 billion in cuts to health care for seniors in nursing homes, people with disabilities, poor children, and other low-income people. The amendment restores this funding for Medicaid, and it is fully offset by eliminating or reducing tax deductions to the "Big 5" oil companies, egregious tax breaks, tax loopholes that encourage the outsourcing of U.S. jobs overseas, or additional tax cuts for millionaires. If these Republican cuts go forward, Medicaid funding will be cut by one-third by 2022. This level of cuts will lead states to drop between 14 million and 27 million people from health care by the tenth year, according to the Urban Institute.

A **YES** vote maintains health care for millions of seniors in nursing homes, people with disabilities, and children.

A **NO** vote puts big oil companies and additional tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of basic health care for the most vulnerable Americans.

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 550 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure that senior citizens and persons with disabilities will not lose critical Medicaid assistance to cover the costs of their nursing home care or home- and community-based services, and to ensure that low-income beneficiaries who are also eligible for Medicare receive help paying their premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BA	3.000	33.000	48.000	59.000	70.000	81.000	98.000	118.000	137.000	163.000
Outlays	3.000	33.000	48.000	59.000	70.000	81.000	98.000	118.000	137.000	163.000

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) the Section 199 deduction for domestic production activities for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as tax deductions for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage the outsourcing of manufacturing and result in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; and/or 4) additional tax cuts for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually.

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.
4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution rejects policies favoring tax cuts for the wealthiest members of our society at the expense of protecting access to long-term care and other critical health care services for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, low-income children and their families, and other vulnerable groups of people who rely on the health care safety net provided by Medicaid.

The resolution rejects any policy that would cut long-term care benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities, and it affirms that state governments should not reduce long-term care for seniors as a way to control Medicaid spending. The resolution further rejects any policy that would sever the connection between Medicaid funding and the actual costs of necessary services used by seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income children and families, including policies to convert Medicaid into a block grant or to impose a federal cap on Medicaid funding.

Such policies do not represent reform, because they do nothing to reduce health costs. Rather, such policies would inevitably lead to a dramatic cut in health care support for people who depend on Medicaid, imposing serious financial hardship on them and their families. Seniors and persons with disabilities would be at particular risk of hardship under such a proposal, because they account for two-thirds of Medicaid spending, and would therefore be a likely focus of service cuts to comply with a capped funding level.

The resolution notes, further, that:

- a) much of the spending for seniors and persons with disabilities is for long-term care;
- b) Medicaid pays for nearly half (43 percent) of all long-term care provided in the United States, including nursing homes and home- and community-based supports that many seniors need and want as an alternative to expensive institutional care; and
- c) at least 70 percent of persons over age 65 will likely need long-term care services at some point.

The resolution accommodates the level of health care funding necessary to protect long-term care services for seniors and persons with disabilities, along with important health services for low-income children and other groups helped by Medicaid, by reducing or eliminating the following: the Section 199 deduction for domestic production activities for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as tax deductions for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage the outsourcing of manufacturing and result in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; and additional tax cuts for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually.