

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 135

Expressing the sense of Congress with regard to preserving and expanding
Medicare.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1999

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. LEE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COYNE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. VENTO, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FROST, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BONIOR, and Mr. BECERRA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with regard to preserving
and expanding Medicare.

Whereas Medicare has provided guaranteed and universal health coverage to millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities since its passage in 1965, including 38 million current beneficiaries;

Whereas 58 percent of seniors have incomes below \$15,000 per year and 60 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level;

Whereas senior citizens in this country are already paying an average of \$2,150 per year in out-of-pocket health care expenses, despite Medicare coverage;

Whereas the United States is one of the few countries in the industrialized world not to provide prescription drug coverage to senior citizens;

Whereas proposals by some members of the Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, such as establishing a premium support or voucher system for Medicare, raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67, and imposing a 10 percent home health copayment fee will cause increased pain and suffering for millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities;

Whereas premium support or voucher plans for Medicare will particularly hurt Americans living in rural areas, low-income individuals, women, and minorities; and

Whereas Medicare coverage should be expanded and improved, and not cut back: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—
- 3 (1) any premium support, privatization, or
- 4 voucher plan for Medicare should be rejected;

1 (2) the eligibility age for Medicare should not
2 be increased;

3 (3) no copayment should be imposed on home
4 health care;

5 (4) changes should be made to the Medicare
6 program to improve and extend it, such as commit-
7 ting 15 percent of the budget surplus to ensure
8 Medicare's solvency, adding a prescription drug ben-
9 efit to the Medicare program, and making it easier
10 for eligible Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in the
11 low-income Medicare assistance plans; and

12 (5) the current guarantee of Medicare benefits
13 should not be eliminated.

○