

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 532

Proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Veterans' Affairs, 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

RESOLUTION

Proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all
Americans.

Whereas the United States spends more money per capita on
health care than any other industrialized nation;

Whereas 80 percent of adults are dissatisfied with the total
cost of health care in the country;

Whereas 77 percent of Americans are concerned that rising
health care costs will damage the American economy;

Whereas 68 percent of Americans support a national health
care plan;

Whereas the rate of uninsured individuals is at a 4-year high
of 13.7 percent;

Whereas Medicare is consistently rated the most popular and efficient health insurance system in the country;

Whereas 90 percent of adults aged 65 and older, with most adults in this group qualifying for Medicare, rate both their care and coverage positively;

Whereas private health insurance coverage continues to be more prevalent than government coverage, at 67.2 percent and 37.7 percent, respectively;

Whereas employer-based insurance was the most common subtype of private health insurance coverage, at 56 percent;

Whereas 80 percent of adults rate the quality of health care received as excellent or good;

Whereas 69 percent of adults rate their health care coverage as excellent or good; and

Whereas 60 percent of Americans believe it is the Federal Government's responsibility to ensure health care coverage: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) making Medicare an available insurance
4 plan for all Americans should be a unified goal de-
5 spite differences in proposed strategies to achieve it;

6 (2) the complexity of the existing health care
7 system in the United States should be considered;

8 (3) the desire of individuals to retain the ability
9 to choose their health care should be considered;

1 (4) a serious effort to change the health care
2 system will require years of work;

3 (5) a transition plan to reach this goal promptly
4 could, as initial steps—

5 (A) expand Medicare eligibility to allow
6 every individual who is aged 40 to 64 and not
7 a full-benefit Medicaid enrollee to buy into
8 Medicare;

9 (B) offer Medicare on the individual mar-
10 ket to all age groups;

11 (C) allow employers to contribute money to
12 the Medicare program and offer it as a health
13 care benefit to their employees; and

14 (D) offer Medicare on the Exchanges es-
15 tablished by the Patient Protection and Afford-
16 able Care Act;

17 (6) after these initial steps, the Secretary of the
18 Department of Health and Human Services should
19 conduct an assessment to evaluate how many indi-
20 viduals remain outside of the Medicare system and
21 their reasons for declining enrollment;

22 (7) the Secretary should use the findings of the
23 assessment to determine how the Medicare program
24 can be extended to the remaining individuals to en-
25 roll;

1 (8) Medicare coverage should be expanded to
2 include all essential health benefits as outlined in the
3 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

4 (9) the Department of Veterans Affairs will
5 continue to have a role to play in providing quality
6 health care and expertise to the Nation's veterans;
7 and

8 (10) the Indian Health Service will continue to
9 have a role to play in providing quality health care
10 and expertise to Native Americans.

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