

The Seniors' Choice Act

*A proposal keeping the promise to America's seniors
by building a stronger, more sustainable Medicare program*

Strengthening Seniors' Benefits and Choices

Washington Needs To Stop Putting Politics Ahead Of Patients

The President's new health care law changed Medicare as we know it, and not for the better. It took more than \$500 billion out of a Medicare program on the brink of bankruptcy to pay for new government programs we can't afford. It established the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)—an unelected, unaccountable board of politically-appointed bureaucrats charged with making decisions that will impact care under the Medicare program. Instead of putting doctors and patients in charge of health care decisions, the new health care law empowered this 15-member board of unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats with the authority to cut Medicare payments to doctors, which will threaten patients' access to care, and ultimately result in denial of care.

If we are going to fulfill our promise to seniors today and future retirees, we must strengthen Medicare. Repealing IPAB is a critical step in stopping Washington from putting politics ahead of our nation's seniors and putting patients and their doctors back in charge of their health care decisions.

Strengthening Medicare for Seniors Today and Tomorrow

Medicare reform should guarantee that we fulfill our promise to ensure Medicare is there for today's seniors and future retirees. Any reform must be guided by a commonsense, patient-centered approach. Medicare reform should seek to improve patients' care and clinical outcomes. Patients should be able to access appropriate care in the right care setting, at the right time. Medicare will be strengthened by offering seniors the choice of a better benefit—a benefit that is at least as good as their Medicare benefit today. Seniors should have the ability to pick a Medicare plan that meets their individual health care needs, benefiting from the same kinds of choices and competition that Members of Congress enjoy today.

Better Benefits

The Seniors Choice Act gives seniors new, strengthened benefits:

- Seniors in traditional Medicare will have peace of mind that they are protected from unexpected, high medical costs by limiting their maximum out-of-pocket medical expenses under Medicare Parts A and B.
- Seniors in traditional Medicare who would otherwise be at risk because of their health care needs will be able to benefit from care coordination when they need it.
- Seniors will save money. Modernizing Medigap as part of a strengthened Medicare benefit will help an estimated four out of five seniors with Medigap save money—as much as more than \$1,000 annually.

Better Choices

- Premium support is a patient-centered approach to strengthening Medicare. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach to Medicare, seniors will have the choice of a better benefit that meets their individual health care needs.
- Premium support puts patients and doctors back in charge of their health care decisions, instead of the President's unelected, unaccountable board of bureaucrats which will threaten patients' access to care.
- Medicare will compete for patients and be forced to give seniors and taxpayers the best deal for their dollar.
- Seniors have benefited from choice and competition in Medicare Part D, which has enabled seniors to have an affordable prescription drug benefit. Seniors should benefit from the same kinds of choices and competition for their entire Medicare benefit.
- Premium support will strengthen Medicare for seniors by giving them the ability to choose the Medicare plan that will best work for them, just like they do with their Medicare prescription drug coverage today.