

2017 -- H 5227

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS NOT PASS
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CUT MEDICARE BENEFITS, OR ELIMINATE THE
GUARANTEED LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THAT HAS BEEN PART OF
MEDICARE FROM ITS INCEPTION**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Ruggiero, Morin, Fogarty, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: January 26, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, For much of America's history, most of the elderly population lacked health
2 care insurance and were dependent upon family members and the generosity of medical
3 professionals to attain the vital healthcare they needed. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Harry
4 Truman and John Kennedy all tried to pass national insurance plans but none came to fruition
5 until President Lyndon Johnson was able to secure passage of landmark legislation in 1965 that
6 covered all senior citizens aged sixty-five and older; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, fifty-seven million Americans, and more than two-hundred thousand
8 Rhode Island citizens, depend on Medicare to pay for their doctor visits, hospitalizations,
9 prescription drugs and rehabilitation services they need to survive and to maintain quality of life.
10 Any changes in these benefits would create great uncertainty and anxiety amongst those currently
11 receiving Medicare and those older workers who will soon be receiving Medicare. Millions of
12 Americans have planned their lives around the certainty and guaranteed benefits Medicare
13 provides and it would be wrong and unjust to cut these benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, Hard-working Americans have paid into Medicare over the past fifty-two
15 years and have earned the benefits they receive and rely upon today. Thanks to the passage of
16 Medicare in 1965, the poverty rate amongst senior citizens has plummeted. Medicare has allowed
17 our seniors to live their lives independently, to not be a burden to their loved ones, and to live
18 their lives with dignity. When Medicare was overwhelmingly passed, our nation made a promise

1 to our senior citizens regarding the guaranteed level of health care they would receive when they
2 turned sixty-five, and that promise should and must be kept; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the United States Congress not pass
5 legislation that would cut Medicare benefits, eliminate the guaranteed level of health care
6 coverage that has been part of Medicare since its inception, privatize Medicare, or adopt a
7 voucher system for Medicare; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Paul Ryan, Speaker of the United States House
10 of Representatives, Mitch McConnell, United States Senate Majority Leader, Nancy Pelosi,
11 United States House of Representatives Minority Leader, Charles Schumer, United States Senate
12 Minority Leader, and the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress.

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