

Preserve Medicare and Medicaid for Seniors, People with Disabilities



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Congress should defeat efforts to slash Medicare and Medicaid. More than 57 million seniors and people with disabilities depend on Medicare for their health coverage, and 10 million of them qualify for Medicaid as well — “dual eligibles” who often require skilled nursing care or help at home with activities of daily living.

- ▶ **We oppose plans to raise the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67, or to convert Medicare to “premium support” — giving people vouchers, worth a fixed dollar amount, to buy health coverage from insurance companies. Vouchers would:**
 - Hasten the **privatization of Medicare** by forcing people out of traditional Medicare and into private managed care plans
 - Increase **out-of-pocket costs** for people on limited or fixed incomes, causing them to skip or delay medically necessary care — for example, going to the doctor when they are sick

- ▶ **We oppose changing the current approach to federal funding for Medicaid — guaranteed matching dollars — to “per capita caps,” a limited amount for each beneficiary, or “block grants,” a lump sum paid annually. The change would:**
 - Dramatically shift costs to the states, forcing them to cut benefits, limit eligibility, increase out-of-pocket costs for patients, reduce payments to providers, and/or **raid education** or other state programs to cover the shortfall
 - Threaten the one million **nursing home residents** who rely on Medicaid coverage

- ▶ **We oppose proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would also hurt Medicare beneficiaries by:**
 - Ending mandatory **free preventive services** such as screenings for breast and colorectal cancers, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease
 - Re-opening the Part D “donut hole,” which would **increase prescription drug costs**
 - Reversing improvements in the solvency of the Medicare Part A trust fund, which would **threaten the future of Medicare**