

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, which represent millions of taxpayers around the country, we write urging you to reject the Medicare Crisis Program Act recently introduced by Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Joe Kennedy (D-MA).¹ This legislation would rely on flawed and struggling federal health programs to cover the recently uninsured, and would open the door to a single-payer, “Medicare for All” program that we believe would do tremendous harm to the fiscal and economic well-being of the United States and further endanger the access to timely, quality care upon which millions of Americans depend.

The Medicare Crisis Program Act would immediately enroll millions of people in Medicare, even though the Medicare Board of Trustees projected just last month that the Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund will be depleted by 2026.² The bill would also eliminate Medicare premiums for all current and future beneficiaries, thereby starving the Supplementary Medicare Insurance (SMI) trust fund of tens of billions of dollars in revenue per year.³ Make no mistake: the Medicare Crisis Program Act will throw fuel on a raging fire, and will ultimately harm current Medicare recipients the most by putting the program in a dire position in the immediate future.

We are also concerned with the bill’s rapid and aggressive expansion of Medicaid, doubling or tripling income eligibility thresholds for a program that is jointly administered by federal and state governments. The bill’s authors pledge that the federal government will pick up the tab for newly eligible enrollees, relieving states of their share for new enrollee costs, but this is cold comfort for taxpayers who have already seen their representatives commit an extraordinary amount of federal dollars to the current economic and public health emergencies.

We appreciate the unique nature of the COVID-19 crisis, and acknowledge that policymakers have options to assist the millions of Americans who are rapidly losing health coverage from their employer. Our organizations may disagree on the ideal solution to this problem, but we all agree that any solution should be targeted, fiscally responsible, limited in scope and duration, and should focus on keeping individuals and families linked to private health insurance. Proposals to massively expand federal health programs, from the Medicare Crisis Program Act to “Medicare for All,” will harm all taxpayers and patients in the long run.

Sincerely,



National Taxpayers
Union



ALEC Action



Association of
Mature American
Citizens Action



American Commitment



The American
Conservative Union

¹ United States Congressman Jamie Raskin. (May 1, 2020). “As Uninsured Rate Skyrockets, 30+ House Members Introduce Legislation to Guarantee Health Coverage During COVID-19 Pandemic.” Retrieved from: <https://raskin.house.gov/media/press-releases/uninsured-rate-skyrockets-30-house-members-introduce-legislation-guarantee> (Accessed May 1, 2020.)

² Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds. (April 22, 2020). “2020 Annual Report of the Boards Of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds.” Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2020-medicare-trustees-report.pdf>

³ Davis, Patricia A. and Voorhies, Phoenix. “Medicare Overview.” Congressional Research Service, April 1, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10885> (See Figure 2. Sources of Medicare Revenue, 2018.)



American Consumer Institute



Consumer Action for a Strong Economy



Americans for Prosperity



Americans for Tax Reform



The Buckeye Institute



Campaign for Liberty



Center for a Free Economy



Center for Freedom and Prosperity



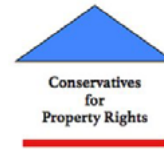
Center for Individual Freedom



Club for Growth



Competitive Enterprise Institute



Conservatives for Property Rights



Council for Citizens Against Government Waste



FreedomWorks



Galen Institute



The Heartland Institute



Heritage Action for America



Independent Women's Voice



Institute for Liberty



John Locke Foundation



Kansas Policy Institute



Less Government



Mackinac Center



Rio Grande Foundation



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council)



Taxpayers Protection Alliance