

## 115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 215

Expressing the fact that the House of Representatives supports the system for prescription drug coverage provided under part D of the Medicare program and believes that changes to such system should not be part of the American Health Care Act of 2017.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 21, 2017

Mr. Bilirakis (for himself and Mr. Mast) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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

Expressing the fact that the House of Representatives supports the system for prescription drug coverage provided under part D of the Medicare program and believes that changes to such system should not be part of the American Health Care Act of 2017.

Whereas in 2003, Congress created part D of the Medicare program, which provided voluntary, outpatient prescription drug coverage for seniors;

Whereas in 2015, about 39 million Medicare beneficiaries received prescription drug benefits through a Medicare part D plan or a Medicare Advantage plan;

- Whereas another 2 million such beneficiaries received drug assistance through a part D subsidized retiree health plan;
- Whereas program costs under part D have been lower than estimated at the beginning of the program;
- Whereas the 2004 Medicare Trustees Report projected the total program spending would be \$85 billion in 2006 and would grow to \$162 billion by 2013;
- Whereas actual Medicare spending was \$70 billion in 2013;
- Whereas according to a Healthcare Leadership Council, 89 percent of Americans age 65 and older are satisfied with their coverage and 85 percent say that they consider their Medicare drug plan to be a good value;
- Whereas under the standard Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit for 2017, beneficiaries reach a coverage gap, commonly known as the "doughnut hole", when their total drug costs reach \$3,700;
- Whereas beneficiaries reach a catastrophic coverage threshold when their drug costs reach \$8,071;
- Whereas in 2010, as a part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, it was found that the coverage gap will end by 2020; and
- Whereas many seniors have been misled into believing that the coverage gap will be repealed during health care reform: Now, therefore, be it
  - 1 Resolved, That the House of Representatives—
  - 2 (1) supports the system for prescription drug
- 3 coverage provided under part D of the Medicare pro-
- 4 gram; and

1	(2) believes that changes to such system should
2	not be part of the American Health Care Act of
3	2017.

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