

ELEVENTH DISTRICT
VIRGINIA



U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

GERALD E. CONNOLLY

Dear Friend,

When Medicare was created in 1965, it marked a major and important change for seniors in our nation. Before the law's enactment, more than half of all seniors had little or no access to health care because they could not afford it.

Medicare changed all that by providing guaranteed, affordable health care to the disabled and all Americans 65-years-of-age and older. Today, every senior has access to health care coverage because of Medicare.

Medicare is one of America's greatest success stories, but today it is under attack and faces a very real threat to its existence.

In April, the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a radical plan—the “Ryan Plan”— to eliminate Medicare as we know it and replace it with a privatized system that would provide future seniors with a voucher to pay part of their cost to purchase private insurance in the open market.

The sponsors of the plan to dismantle Medicare admit that **the voucher won't be enough to cover the costs of insurance** and other medical care for most seniors. Under their plan, the remainder of the cost of purchasing private health insurance (assuming it is available at all) and other health care costs would come out of seniors' pockets.

As the Congress rightly focuses on reducing the federal deficit, there are many proposals to restore long-term fiscal responsibility to our budgeting. But destroying the Medicare program for our seniors and future generations is not a viable solution that I can support.

I will continue to fight this plan and stand with Northern Virginia's seniors to keep the promise that has provided health care, stability, and dignity to generations of American seniors over the last 45 years.

Sincerely,

Gerry Connolly

“ I strongly oppose the ‘Ryan Plan’ in Congress that will dismantle Medicare, substantially increase health care costs, and place seniors at the mercy of private insurance companies. ”

— Congressman Gerry Connolly

Gerry is fighting the Budget Plan in Congress because:



It will end guaranteed medical coverage for future seniors and the disabled and replace it with a voucher that seniors would use to pay part of their cost for private health insurance policies on the open market.



It will increase the costs of prescription drugs by reopening the so-called Medicare Part D doughnut hole. Health insurance reform closed that loophole and, already, we have seen the cost of name-brand and generic drugs go down for seniors. The Republican legislation would once again force many seniors to choose between buying their medicine and buying their groceries.



Seniors could be denied insurance and claims could be rejected due to pre-existing conditions. Separate legislation passed by the majority eliminates a key provision of the health insurance reform law which prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage for treatment of pre-existing conditions. By the time people reach the age of 65, most have pre-existing conditions.



Seniors would pay more out-of-pocket for medical care. The plan would cost seniors an extra \$7,000 a year in health care costs, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. Out of pocket costs would double over the next decade and triple by 2030, requiring seniors to pay about 68% of health care costs out of pocket.

Congressman Connolly recently spoke about protecting Medicare to seniors at Greenspring in Springfield.



“After a lifetime of paying Medicare taxes, seniors deserve access to health care in the years they need it most.” — Gerry Connolly