

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to express support for Medicare and oppose any cuts to benefits.

WHEREAS, in 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law landmark legislation, creating Medicare and promising the citizenry that “No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine ... No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years”; and

WHEREAS, for half a century, senior citizens and the permanently disabled have relied upon Medicare, secure in the knowledge that they would no longer be forced to forgo basic medical care while living in the most prosperous nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare program reflects the nation’s commitment to the health and independence of older Americans and Americans with disabilities by providing healthcare coverage to nearly 50 million people; and

WHEREAS, Medicare safeguards beneficiaries and their families from the ruinous costs of medical treatments and prevents individuals from spending unmanageable proportions of their incomes on medical care or being pushed into poverty by their medical bills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that we oppose any plan by the United States Congress to cut Medicare benefits and erode America’s hard-earned retirement plan and social safety net.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly also strongly supports the strengthening and preservation of Medicare's ability to deliver high-quality health care in a cost-efficient manner for current and future retirees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.