

## House Resolution 553

By: Representatives McClain of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Prince of the 127<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and Randall of the 142<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Medicare on its 50th anniversary; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Medicare is the nation's largest and most successful health insurance system  
3 serving the health needs of more than 53 million older and disabled Americans; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in Georgia alone 1,318,733 people benefit from Medicare; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Medicare has been the most financially efficient health care system in the  
6 United States with administrative costs averaging only 2 percent of program outlays; and
- 7 WHEREAS, before Medicare, 50 percent of seniors lived in poverty; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 2013 half of all people with Medicare lived on incomes less than \$23,500.00  
9 per year, one in four Medicare beneficiaries had less than \$11,300.00 in savings, and the  
10 median annual income for women and people of color were significantly lower; and
- 11 WHEREAS, 40 percent of the Medicare population is living with three or more chronic  
12 conditions, an estimated 23 percent have a cognitive or mental impairment, and about  
13 15 percent have severe limitations with two or more everyday activities necessary to living;  
14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, in 1972, Medicare was expanded to cover younger beneficiaries with severe,  
16 life-changing, permanent disabilities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, these individuals would have a difficult time to pay for health care were it not  
18 for Medicare; and
- 19 WHEREAS, increased access to and insurance coverage of health care has resulted in  
20 significant benefits for the elderly including improvements in health and income status; and

21 WHEREAS, without Medicare, many seniors and disabled Americans' health needs would  
22 go unmet and they would fall into poverty; and

23 WHEREAS, July 30, 2015, will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Medicare  
24 Act.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 this body commemorates the creation of the Medicare program and celebrates its successes  
27 in keeping seniors healthy and out of poverty.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
30 Medicare.