

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 789

To express the sense of the Senate that Medicare should not be dismantled and turned into a voucher program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2011

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To express the sense of the Senate that Medicare should not be dismantled and turned into a voucher program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEDICARE**
4 **SHOULD NOT BE DISMANTLED AND TURNED**
5 **INTO A VOUCHER PROGRAM.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following
7 findings:

8 (1) The Medicare program has been providing
9 affordable health care for elderly and disabled Amer-
10 icans for decades.

1 (2) Forty-seven million Americans currently
2 rely on the Medicare program for their health care.

3 (3) The Congressional Budget Office has stated
4 that under the House Budget Committee fiscal year
5 2012 budget resolution “most elderly people would
6 pay more for their health care than they would pay
7 under the current Medicare system”.

8 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
9 Senate that—

10 (1) Medicare should not be dismantled and
11 turned into a voucher or premium-support program;

12 (2) deficit reduction should not be achieved by
13 simply passing on the costs of health care to Medi-
14 care beneficiaries;

15 (3) guaranteed Medicare benefits should be pre-
16 served;

17 (4) medical decisions should be made by seniors
18 and their doctors, not insurance companies; and

19 (5) deficit reduction should be achieved by low-
20 ering health care costs through delivery system re-
21 forms.

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