



November 2, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members and other older Americans, AARP supports the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the essential role it plays in providing affordable health coverage to working families for over 8 million children, including the thousands of grandparents raising grandchildren under the age of 18. However, we strongly oppose section 403 of the "CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS ACT" (H.R. 3922) that unfairly and inappropriately offsets some of the program's costs by shifting those costs onto older Americans in Medicare. Section 403 of the HEALTHY KIDS Act creates a new bracket for high-income Medicare beneficiaries, requiring enrollees to pay 100 percent of the Medicare Part B premium, as well as requiring an increased surcharge for enrollees on their Part D plans. **Due to this harmful cost-shift onto Medicare beneficiaries, we are opposed to H.R. 3922 and urge you to vote NO.**

Inclusion of higher income-related premiums to help offset the CHIP reauthorization bill is troubling for many reasons. Higher-income Medicare beneficiaries already pay more in monthly premiums, as well as pay an additional tax on their Social Security benefits dedicated to the Medicare program. In addition, Medicare (unlike Social Security) does not have a payroll cap, and higher income seniors have been paying more into the Medicare program throughout their working lives. These high costs risk driving better off seniors out of the Medicare program, and undermining support for Medicare. Further, this bill shifts more costs onto Medicare beneficiaries before the cost-shifts from the last time Congress asked beneficiaries to pay more – in MACRA (P.L. 114-10) – have even taken effect. Not only is it wrong to continue to ask Medicare beneficiaries to shoulder the burden for non-Medicare expenditures, but it will make it even harder to finance actual improvements and address long-term challenges in the Medicare program.

We agree that investing in quality health care will keep our children healthier longer and avoid more costly health care later on in life. We encourage you to work in a bipartisan manner to identify alternative offsets that lower costs and improve the delivery of health care. AARP stands ready to assist you in any way we can to ensure that this critical legislation can move forward on a bipartisan basis, and health coverage provided through CHIP continues uninterrupted. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, or have your staff contact Joyce Rogers, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at [jarogers@aarpp.org](mailto:jarogers@aarpp.org) or (202) 434-3750.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. LeaMond  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer