
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7—ASSEMBLYMEN FRIERSON, ELLIOT ANDERSON, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, CARRILLO; ARAUJO, BILBRAY-AXELROD, BROOKS, CARLTON, COHEN, DALY, DIAZ, FLORES, FUMO, JAUREGUI, JOINER, MILLER, MONROE-MORENO, NEAL, SPIEGEL, SPRINKLE, SWANK, THOMPSON, WATKINS AND YEAGER

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS CANCELA, CANNIZZARO, FORD, MANENDO, PARKS AND WOODHOUSE

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Expresses the opposition of the Nevada Legislature to certain proposed changes to the federal Medicare and Social Security programs. (BDR R-699)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing the opposition of the Nevada Legislature to certain proposed changes to the federal laws relating to Medicare and the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions of the Social Security Act.

1 WHEREAS, For generations, after a lifetime of work and
2 dedication to this country, many older Nevadans were forced to live
3 in poverty without adequate health care available to them during
4 retirement; and
5 WHEREAS, When Congress passed the Old-Age and Survivors
6 Insurance provisions of the Social Security Act in 1935, countless
7 older Nevadans were lifted out of poverty and provided with an
8 adequate, dependable source of income for their retirement; and
9 WHEREAS, When Congress passed the Social Security
10 Amendments Act of 1965, crucial health insurance coverage



1 through Medicare was made available to all Nevadans over the age
2 of 65 years, regardless of their income or medical history; and

3 WHEREAS, Subsequent amendments by Congress to Medicare
4 and the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions of the Social
5 Security Act established near-universal health care coverage under
6 these programs and provided many older Nevadans with additional
7 benefits, including, without limitation, yearly cost-of-living
8 adjustments to account for inflation, prescription drug assistance and
9 the extension of Medicare to certain Nevadans under the age of 65
10 years who have long-term disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, When Congress passed the Patient Protection and
12 Affordable Care Act in 2010, Medicare beneficiaries were able to
13 receive certain preventive health care services and reduced costs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2015, spending on Medicare and the
16 Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions of the Social Security
17 Act constituted over one-third of the \$3.7 trillion budget of the
18 Federal Government; and

19 WHEREAS, Wide-ranging changes to the Medicare program are
20 being considered by the 115th Congress, including, without
21 limitation, raising the age of eligibility to receive Medicare benefits
22 from 65 to 67 years and repealing certain improvements that were
23 made to this program by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
24 Act; and

25 WHEREAS, Wide-ranging changes to the Old-Age and Survivors
26 Insurance provisions of the Social Security Act are also being
27 considered by the 115th Congress, including, without limitation,
28 raising the age for full retirement from 67 to 69 years, moving
29 towards a cost-of-living adjustment based on the chained consumer
30 price index and means testing benefits for certain recipients; and

31 WHEREAS, The 115th Congress is also considering the potential
32 privatization of many of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
33 benefits that older Nevadans have earned during decades of work;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, The changes being considered by Congress could
36 have a damaging effect on the standard of living of Nevadans who
37 retire; and

38 WHEREAS, A bipartisan solution is needed to ensure the future
39 sustainability of Medicare and the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
40 provisions of the Social Security Act which fully preserves the
41 critical benefits that many older Nevadans have come to rely upon,
42 is fiscally responsible and ensures that all Nevadans have a reliable
43 source of income and health care during their retirement; now,
44 therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
2 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the
3 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to fully preserve the
4 critical benefits which many older Nevadans have come to rely
5 upon; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That Congress should work towards establishing a
7 bipartisan solution which avoids the privatization of Medicare and
8 the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions of the Social
9 Security Act and strengthens these essential programs for future
10 generations of Nevadans; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
12 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
13 States, as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
14 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
15 Chairman of the United States House Committee on Ways and
16 Means, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on
17 Finance, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health
18 and Human Services, the Commissioner of Social Security and each
19 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
21 passage.

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