

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

Joint Sponsors: Senators Cancela, Cannizzaro,
Ford, Manendo, Parks and Woodhouse

FILE NUMBER.....

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.

WHEREAS, For generations, after a lifetime of work and dedication to this country, many older Nevadans were forced to live in poverty without adequate health care available to them during retirement; and

WHEREAS, When Congress passed the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance provisions of the Social Security Act in 1935, countless older Nevadans were lifted out of poverty and provided with an adequate, dependable source of income for their retirement; and

WHEREAS, When Congress passed the Social Security Amendments Act of 1965, crucial health insurance coverage through Medicare was made available to all Nevadans over the age of 65 years, regardless of their income or medical history; and

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States, as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chairman of the United States House Committee on Ways and Means, the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Finance, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health



and Human Services, the Commissioner of Social Security and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further
RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

