

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 532

Proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all Americans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all  
Americans.

Whereas the United States spends more money per capita on health care than any other industrialized nation;

Whereas 80 percent of adults are dissatisfied with the total cost of health care in the country;

Whereas 77 percent of Americans are concerned that rising health care costs will damage the American economy;

Whereas 68 percent of Americans support a national health care plan;

Whereas the rate of uninsured individuals is at a 4-year high of 13.7 percent;



Whereas Medicare is consistently rated the most popular and efficient health insurance system in the country;

Whereas 90 percent of adults aged 65 and older, with most adults in this group qualifying for Medicare, rate both their care and coverage positively;

Whereas private health insurance coverage continues to be more prevalent than government coverage, at 67.2 percent and 37.7 percent, respectively;

Whereas employer-based insurance was the most common subtype of private health insurance coverage, at 56 percent;

Whereas 80 percent of adults rate the quality of health care received as excellent or good;

Whereas 69 percent of adults rate their health care coverage as excellent or good; and

Whereas 60 percent of Americans believe it is the Federal Government's responsibility to ensure health care coverage: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) making Medicare an available insurance  
4       plan for all Americans should be a unified goal de-  
5       spite differences in proposed strategies to achieve it;

6               (2) the complexity of the existing health care  
7       system in the United States should be considered;

8               (3) the desire of individuals to retain the ability  
9       to choose their health care should be considered;



1           (4) a serious effort to change the health care  
2       system will require years of work;

3           (5) a transition plan to reach this goal promptly  
4       could, as initial steps—

5           (A) expand Medicare eligibility to allow  
6       every individual who is aged 40 to 64 and not  
7       a full-benefit Medicaid enrollee to buy into  
8       Medicare;

9           (B) offer Medicare on the individual mar-  
10      ket to all age groups;

11          (C) allow employers to contribute money to  
12      the Medicare program and offer it as a health  
13      care benefit to their employees; and

14          (D) offer Medicare on the Exchanges es-  
15      tablished by the Patient Protection and Afford-  
16      able Care Act;

17          (6) after these initial steps, the Secretary of the  
18      Department of Health and Human Services should  
19      conduct an assessment to evaluate how many indi-  
20      viduals remain outside of the Medicare system and  
21      their reasons for declining enrollment;

22          (7) the Secretary should use the findings of the  
23      assessment to determine how the Medicare program  
24      can be extended to the remaining individuals to en-  
25      roll;



1           (8) Medicare coverage should be expanded to  
2           include all essential health benefits as outlined in the  
3           Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

4           (9) the Department of Veterans Affairs will  
5           continue to have a role to play in providing quality  
6           health care and expertise to the Nation's veterans;  
7           and

8           (10) the Indian Health Service will continue to  
9           have a role to play in providing quality health care  
10          and expertise to Native Americans.

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