

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AJR 3 (Schiavo)

As Amended August 19, 2025

Majority vote

### SUMMARY

Urges California's Representatives in the United States (U.S.) Congress to support legislation to repeal all of the provisions of federal H.R. 1, known as the "One Big Beautiful Act," and the U.S. President and the Congress not to cut or privatize Social Security, or cut Medicare and Medicaid programs and benefits.

#### Senate Amendments

Add more recent information relating to the federal Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs, and information relating to federal legislation, known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (H.R. 1), and its impacts to those programs and their participants, recipients, or beneficiaries.

### COMMENTS

#### *The federal Social Security Program*

Social Security was created in 1935 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the economic uncertainty created by the Great Depression. The program was created to balance the need for people to be economically secure without creating a new welfare assistance program. To qualify to receive monthly social security payments a person needs to pay payroll taxes for 10 years with the understanding they are investing in the program and will receive income when they need it in old age.<sup>1</sup> The program also operates as a life insurance policy because children of deceased workers can receive Social Security Disability Insurance. Though the benefits are not large—the average Social Security benefit in February 2024 was about \$1,862 per month—it keeps many older adults out of poverty.<sup>2</sup> It is also especially impactful for communities of color. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "Black and Latino workers are less likely to be offered workplace retirement plans and more likely to work in low-paid jobs with little margin for savings. Social Security helps reduce these inequities between older white adults and older adults of color."<sup>3</sup> California has the most social security beneficiaries, approximately 6.3 million individuals, of any state.

This resolution calls on Congress to prevent any cuts or attempts to privatize this program.

#### *The federal Medicare and Medicaid Programs*

Medicare and Medicaid were created in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. The law was an amendment to the Social Security Act of 1935 and was initially under the Social Security Administration but is now overseen by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and administered by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/briefhistory3.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/top-ten-facts-about-social-security>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 and older regardless of their income or health and people under 65 who have certain disabilities. It is an entitlement program and its health plans cover most of the services that traditional private plans cover. To enroll, older beneficiaries need to show they or their spouse are eligible for social security and have paid payroll taxes for 10 years. According to the DHHS, approximately 6.6 million Californians are covered by Medicare and 90% of them are 65 or older.

Medicaid was created to provide low-income individuals and families with health insurance and long-term services like In-Home Supportive Services. Seniors with low incomes can also receive health coverage through Medicaid for what is not covered by Medicare. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in 2016, half of the Medicare enrollees made less than \$26,000.<sup>4</sup> The program is jointly administered by federal and state governments with the federal government providing oversight funding and states administering the program, as well as providing additional funding. States have flexibility in the way they administer Medicaid and can apply for waivers that give them the additional flexibility to operate in ways not traditionally allowed through regulation.

In California, Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, has 14.7 million people enrolled as of March 2025, according to the Department of Health Care Services. There have been a number of changes to the program recently which expanded eligibility and enrollment. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), these expansions include making "low-income undocumented immigrants eligible for comprehensive coverage... eliminating asset limit eligibility rules for seniors and persons with disabilities, reducing enrollee cost-sharing requirements, and restoring certain services cut during the Great Recession."<sup>5</sup>

This resolution also calls on the President and the Congress to abstain from proposed funding cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, and any changes to the program that would effectively act as funding cuts.

### **According to the Author**

"While the California Legislature cannot change federal policy, this resolution sends a strong message that we are committed to protecting Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare for our most vulnerable: seniors, children, and people with disabilities. Any cuts to these programs will only create irreparable harm for Californians, but especially those with low and middle incomes and our disabled community whose quality of life, and in some cases their very lives, depends on the vitality of these programs. The (federal) administration made a promise to the American people about these programs, and this resolution would urge them to honor it."

### **Arguments in Support**

The various supporters of this resolution offer statements similar to those of the author.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/an-overview-of-medicare>

<sup>5</sup> LAO. The 2025-26 Budget: Medi-Cal in the May Revision. May 19, 2025.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

This resolution is keyed nonfiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT: 7-0-0**

**YES:** McKinnor, Lackey, Alanis, Boerner, Elhawary, Garcia, Nguyen

### **ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-2-13**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**NO:** DeMaio, Gallagher

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

### **SENATE FLOOR: 29-0-11**

**YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Rubio, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

## **UPDATED**

VERSION: August 19, 2025

CONSULTANT: Michael Bolden / P. E. & R. / (916) 319-3957

FN: 0001253