



October 10, 2018

Support the Retirement Freedom Act, H.R. 6703 and S. 3560

On behalf of FreedomWorks activists nationwide, I urge you to contact your representative and senators ask them to support and co-sponsor the Retirement Freedom Act, H.R. 6703 and S. 3560, introduced by Rep. Gary Palmer (R-Ala.) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas). The bill would decouple Social Security benefits from Medicare Part A enrollment, allowing individuals if they so choose to to opt out of Medicare Part A without losing access to their Social Security benefits.

Currently, the two programs are coupled by the Social Security Administration, meaning that if a senior can afford his or her own private health insurance and does not wish to accept Medicare Part A insurance, he or she is forced to lose access to Social Security benefits as well. As former Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) said of the concept when he first introduced the Retirement Freedom Act in 2011, "American seniors should have the freedom to make their own choice about health care without Uncle Sam threatening to take away their Social Security checks."

At its core, the Retirement Freedom Act is about liberty and individual choice to expand Americans' ability to make health care decisions for themselves free from government overreach. However, it is also a positive step toward reforming our broken entitlement system, which continues to drive our national debt further and further up, to the \$21.5 trillion it sits at today. When Medicare began in 1965, mandatory spending at \$49.1 billion made up just under 28 percent of the total \$178.1 billion federal budget. In 2017, mandatory spending at \$2.518 trillion consumed over double that percentage -- 63 percent of the \$3.981 trillion federal budget.

This type of spending is unsustainable and is driven in large part by exorbitant spending on Medicare. By simply allowing individuals who do not want to receive benefits from Medicare Part A to opt out of it, our country can save billions of taxpayer dollars and begin to slow the growth of unchecked entitlement programs that have driven us so deeply into debt. According to analysis done when this legislation was first introduced, if only one percent of eligible seniors opt out of Medicare Part A under this change, we will see an immediate savings of \$1.5 billion.

Enhancing health care freedom and saving taxpayer dollars while taking a much needed step toward Medicare solvency is a common sense measure for our elected officials to enact. For these reasons, I urge you to contact your representative and senators and ask them to support and co-sponsor the Retirement Freedom Act, H.R. 6703 and S. 3560.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Brandon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Brandon
President, FreedomWorks