



U.S. Congressman

James E. Clyburn (SC-6)

Vice Chair, House Democratic Caucus



News Release

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Congressman Clyburn Argues Medicare Proposal Fatally Flawed

(Washington, DC) – House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair James E. Clyburn (SC-6) made the following statement in rejecting the Republican Medicare proposal as “fatally flawed.”

"I am unalterably opposed to this legislation. It is a fulfillment of the Gingrich philosophy of putting in place the wherewithal for Medicare to wither on the vine.

“There are a number of reasons that I consider this proposed legislation to be a bad Bill. But there are three things that, in my opinion, make it fatally flawed.

“First and foremost is cost: Under this Republican plan, **the first \$5,000 in coverage will cost Seniors about \$4,000.** We Democrats are fighting to give our Seniors a prescription drug plan similar to the one we have where the first \$5,000 of coverage cost us about \$1,000.

“Secondly: This Bill **prohibits Medicare from negotiating better prices.** I voted against re-importation because I believe very strongly in the safety issues involved. But to have a prohibition against negotiating better prices is just plain wrong, and will cause 110,000 South Carolina Medicare recipients to pay higher prices for their prescription drugs.

“Thirdly: This Bill **creates incentives for employers to drop retiree coverage.** If CBO estimates are correct, approximately 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries, 38,200 in South Carolina, will lose their retiree health benefits. That is the ultimate broken promise.

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