

under the Republican Medicare proposal.

They are programs which took decades to evolve and refine.

If they are gutted by these senseless cuts, these programs will be virtually impossible to reconstruct.

The proposal to cut formulas for Medicare graduate medical education and disproportionate share payments would devastate New York's hospitals.

Fifteen percent of all medical residents in the America are educated in New York metropolitan area hospitals.

New York City's hospitals also serve an unusually high proportion of special needs patients: the elderly, the disabled, the chronically ill, and the poor.

Overall Medicare payment rates determine indirect Medical education and disproportionate share payments.

If those payments are reduced because of smaller inflation adjustments, New York's hospitals would be hit with a double whammy.

Graduate Medical Education would be further devastated by new restrictions on training international residents, who comprise 45 percent of all residents.

What country a resident comes from is unimportant as long as he or she is saving American lives.

New York's world-renowned hospital system is struggling to stay afloat TODAY.

These cuts are far in excess of what that system can absorb without catastrophic consequences.

Medicaid cuts will especially hurt New York nursing homes and other long-term care providers, who rely on Medicaid for 90 percent of all payments.

That will trickle down to middle class families, who could be bankrupted by simply giving their parents quality care in their old age.

Mr. Speaker, it comes down to this.

New York State, with 7 percent of the population, would absorb 11 percent of the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

New York City, with 2.9 percent of the population, would absorb 6.5 percent of these cuts.

These numbers don't just represent dollars.

These numbers represent lives.

Thousands of lives lost, ruined or needlessly compromised.

There are numbers in this budget that we can cut which will NOT represent lives.

It's time to spare these critically important health care programs for our seniors, our poor, our disabled and our people.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-428) on the resolution (H. Res. 317) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 134) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1655, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-429) on the resolution (H. Res. 318) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 317 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 317

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 134) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 317 allows for consideration of House Joint Resolution 134, which will make further continuing appropriation to ensure that our veterans continue to receive the payment of their benefits during the budget negotiations and the current partial Government shutdown. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule also provides for one motion to recommit which may include instructions if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Earlier this week, the President vetoed the conference report for the VA-HUD appropriations for fiscal year 1996,

and as a result, put the Government in the position of renegeing on its promise to pay veterans benefits checks. We cannot allow our veterans to lose these benefits, and this Congress will take any action to protect our service men and women and their families.

This is a simple resolution which deals with one specific issue in our Federal budget that we in Congress believe is important enough to merit this action. This resolution provides a temporary solution by ensuring the payment of veterans benefits in the event of a lack of appropriations through fiscal year 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the 3.3 million veterans in the United States and their dependents not only look forward to and need these benefits—they deserve these benefits. If we do not act on this temporary funding measure tonight, our veterans and their dependents who are expecting benefit checks will see a delay in the receipt of these critical funds.

I have co-sponsored this resolution and I strongly support this action to provide our veterans with the benefits that they have earned and rightly deserve. Despite the importance of the budget negotiations to the future of our Nation, there is no arguing that the men and women who have served this Nation do not deserve the financial uncertainty that may occur. Both parties are responsible for putting this Nation into the fiscal mess that we now face, but this resolution shows that we will not punish those who have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today.

This resolution was unanimously approved by the Rules Committee and it is a fair resolution that will assure that our veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker this continuing resolution is a very small step in the right direction.

This resolution says to American veterans that they should not have to pay the price for this ridiculous game of political brinkmanship my Republican colleagues are playing. What I do not understand Mr. Speaker, is why my republican colleagues believe the entire country should pay this price.

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 383,000 people who are shut out of National Park Service facilities every day that Congress cares about them too?

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 80,000 people who are shut out of the Smithsonian and the National Zoo every day that Congress cares about them too?

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 2,500 people whose FHA home purchase loans aren't being processed that we care about them too?