# McCarthy on Social Security and Medicare

**Highlights:**

* Kevin McCarthy voted for the FY18 Republican House budget that aimed to cut and change Medicare.
  + McCarthy voted for the FY18 House Republican budget that cut Medicare and sought to restructure it.
    - The FY18 budget targeted Medicare and aimed to turn it into a voucher program.

* Kevin McCarthy voted against attempts to allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.
  + McCarthy voted against a bill to allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies to lower prices.

## McCarthy Voted For The FY18 Republican House Budget That Aimed To Cut And Change Medicare

### McCarthy Voted For The FY18 House Republican Budget That Cut Medicare And Sought To Restructure It

**McCarthy Voted For The FY18 Republican House Budget, Which Proposed Reducing Spending On Mandatory Programs Such As Medicare And Called For Restructuring Medicare Into A Premium Support System.** In October 2017, McCarthy voted for “adoption of the concurrent resolution that would provide for $3.2 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2018, not including off- budget accounts. It would assume $1.22 trillion in discretionary spending in fiscal 2018. It would assume the repeal of the 2010 health care overhaul law. It also would propose reducing spending on mandatory programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and changing programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (also known as food stamps). It would call for restructuring Medicare into a ‘premium support’ system beginning in 2024. I would also require the House Ways and Means Committee to report out legislation under the budget reconciliation process that would provide for a revenue-neutral, comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. tax code and would include instructions to 11 House committees to trigger the budget reconciliation process to cut mandatory spending. The concurrent resolution would assume that, over 10 years, base (non-Overseas Contingency Operations) discretionary defense spending would be increased by a total of $929 billion over the Budget Control Act caps and non-defense spending be reduced by $1.3 trillion.” The budget pass 219-206. [H Con Res 71, [Vote #557](https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2017/roll557.xml), 10/5/17; CQ Floor Votes, 10/5/17]

#### It Was Reported That The FY18 Budget Targeted Medicare, It Aimed To Turn It Into A Voucher Program And Cut Funding For It

**The Associated Press: The House Budget “Reprises A Controversial Plan To Turn Medicare Into A Voucher-Like Program.”** According to the Associated Press, “The House on Thursday passed a $4.1 trillion budget plan that promises deep cuts to social programs while paving the way for Republicans to rewrite the tax code later this year. The 2018 House GOP budget reprises a controversial plan to turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for future retirees as well as the party's efforts to repeal the "Obamacare" health law. Republicans controlling Congress have no plans to actually implement those cuts while they pursue their tax overhaul.” [Associated Press, 10/5/17]

**The Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: The FY18 Budget As Passed By House Budget Committee “Would Cut Medicare Spending By $487 Billion Over The 2018-27 Period, Largely By Shifting More Health Care Costs To Beneficiaries.”** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “The 2018 budget resolution that the House Budget Committee approved this week would end Medicare’s guarantee of health coverage by converting the program to a premium support system. Overall, it would cut Medicare spending by $487 billion over the 2018-27 period, largely by shifting more health care costs to beneficiaries. President Trump’s budget, by contrast, would spare Medicare from cuts.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [7/21/17](https://www.cbpp.org/blog/house-budget-cuts-restructures-medicare)]

**The House Budget Called For $5 Trillion In Spending Cuts, Including Slashing Medicaid By $1 Trillion**. According to the Associated Press, “The plan, passed by a nearly party-line 219-206 vote, calls for more than $5 trillion in spending cuts over the coming decade, promising to slash Medicaid by about $1 trillion over the next 10 years, repeal the ‘Obamacare’ health law, and force huge cuts to domestic programs funded each year by Congress.” [Associated Press, 10/5/17]

## McCarthy Voted Against Attempts To Allow Medicare To Lower Prescription Drug Prices

### McCarthy Voted Against A Bill To Allow Medicare To Negotiate With Drug Companies To Lower Prices

**McCarthy Voted Against Bill To Allow Medicare To Negotiate With Drug Companies To Lower Prices.** In January 2007, McCarthy voted against: “Passage of the bill that would require the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department to negotiate with drug companies the prices of drugs covered under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. It also would specify that the bill should not be construed to authorize HHS to establish or require a particular formulary.” The bill passed 255-170. [HR 4, [Vote #23](https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll023.xml), 1/12/07; CQ, 1/12/07]