

Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

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Karen Lightfoot/Lindsay Vidal: (202) 225-5735

## Medicare Trustees Report Highlights Health Reform Law Benefits Medicare

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Today Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman responded to the release of the 2011 Medicare Trustees Report on the financial health of the Medicare program.

“The Medicare Trustees Report underscores the importance of last year’s historic health care reform law in improving and stabilizing Medicare,” said Rep. Waxman. “Provisions in the law extend Medicare for eight years beyond 2016 when it otherwise would go bankrupt. The report also shows that the Affordable Care Act’s improvements can stabilize the program while still preserving it for generations to come. This is in stark contrast to the Republican budget which would destroy the Medicare program.”

Highlights from the 2011 Medicare Trustees Report:

- The Trustees did advance the date of insolvency of the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to 2024, but that is primarily due to a slow economic recovery. Notably, this insolvency would have occurred in 2016 if not for the Affordable Care Act.
- Projected Medicare spending is down, overall, for the next ten years, due to lower than expected spending in 2010.
- Projected Medicare costs over 75 years are about 25% lower because of the Affordable Care Act.
- Medicare’s long-run deficit continues to be much lower than it has been in recent years due to the Affordable Care Act.
- Overall, the Affordable Care Act stabilized and improved this important program that serves nearly 50 million seniors and individuals with disabilities.

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