

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to raise my concerns about the Medicaid provisions in the House-passed budget reconciliation bill and, in particular, the provision that imposes new documentation requirements on individuals and on states.

There are many, many problems with the Medicaid bill. It would shift costs and take away benefits from those who need assistance the most: children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and frail senior citizens. The House-passed bill would do real harm—30 million Americans could face higher cost-sharing, 2 million children could lose coverage altogether, and 26 million individuals could lose benefits according to an analysis by the American Progress Action Fund.

One of the most disturbing provisions in the bill—Section 3145—would impose strict new documentation requirements on Medicaid applicants. Instead of allowing self-declaration of citizenship—as 47 states do today—applicants have to show documentation of citizenship status—such as a birth certificate or a passport. The authors are Section 3145 are apparently concerned that some ineligible immigrant pregnant woman, children or seniors—will slip through the cracks and get health care. Out of that unjustified and undocumented concern, they have created a provision that will actually penalize citizens and state Medicaid programs.

First, there is no reason for Section 3145. It is a measure that seeks to address an illusory problem. Eligible immigrants already have to provide proof of their legal status when they apply for Medicaid, and states take steps to verify that status. Current law is working.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) looked at this issue and reported last July that they found no substantial evidence that immigrants are falsely claiming citizenship to qualify for Medicaid. OIG did not recommend eliminating the opportunity for self-declarations. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has found no evidence that there is a problem and state Medicaid administrators have “not seen a problem with self-declaration of citizenship” based on the results of their quality control review systems.

Second, Section 3145 would have a disastrous effect by erecting Medicaid barriers for U.S. citizens. These new requirements will mean that those who have no money to obtain these documents or no time to wait for care will be unable to receive medical services. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has concluded that the “bulk” of the \$735 million, 10-year savings from Section 3145 would come from reducing or delaying enrollment for U.S. citizens.

Many citizens—particularly low-income citizens—do not have birth certificates in their possession and do not have passports. And getting those documents is neither easy nor cheap. Getting a birth certificate can take weeks and cost up to \$23. People born at home may not even have a birth certificate—a particular problem for people in some rural areas and elderly African Americans. According to information reported in Population Studies, as many as one-fifth of African Americans born around 1940 don't have a birth certificate. Getting a passport is even more expensive and takes even longer. Passports cost about \$90. Just think about how these provisions will affect older women, living alone, possibly cognitively-impaired.

Third, at a time when we are cutting federal Medicaid funds and states are struggling to pay their share of Medicaid costs, Section 3145 would impose a brand new and costly administrative burden on them. The OIG surveyed state Medicaid directors who allow self-declaration. Twenty-five said that they were encouraged by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to simplify their application processes in order to reduce barriers to health care access. 28 said the requirement for documentations would delay eligibility determinations, twenty-five said it would increase personnel costs, and 21 said it would be burdensome and expensive for applicants.

This provision is not necessary but it is dangerous. It should be rejected.

Mr. NUSSEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the conference report will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 275.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 206, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 670]

YEAS—212

Aderholt	Cubin	Harris
Akin	Culberson	Hart
Alexander	Davis (KY)	Hastert
Bachus	Davis, Tom	Hastings (WA)
Baker	Deal (GA)	Hayes
Barrett (SC)	DeLay	Hayworth
Bartlett (MD)	Dent	Hefley
Barton (TX)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hensarling
Bass	Diaz-Balart, M.	Herger
Beauprez	Drake	Hobson
Biggert	Dreier	Hoekstra
Bilirakis	Duncan	Hulshof
Bishop (UT)	Ehlers	Hunter
Blackburn	Emerson	Inglis (SC)
Blunt	English (PA)	Issa
Boehmert	Everett	Jenkins
Boehner	Feeney	Jindal
Bonilla	Ferguson	Johnson (CT)
Bonner	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Keller
Bono	Flake	Kelly
Boozman	Foley	Kennedy (MN)
Boustany	Forbes	King (IA)
Bradley (NH)	Fortenberry	King (NY)
Brady (TX)	Fossella	Kingston
Brown (SC)	Foxo	Kirk
Brown-Waite,	Franks (AZ)	Kline
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Knollenberg
Burton (IN)	Galleghy	Kuhl (NY)
Calvert	Garrett (NJ)	LaHood
Camp (MI)	Gerlach	Latham
Campbell (CA)	Gibbons	Lewis (CA)
Cannon	Gilchrest	Lewis (KY)
Cantor	Gillmor	Linder
Capito	Gingrey	LoBiondo
Carter	Gohmert	Lucas
Castle	Goode	Lungren, Daniel E.
Chabot	Goodlatte	Mack
Choccola	Granger	Manzullo
Coble	Graves	Marchant
Cole (OK)	Green (WI)	McCaul (TX)
Conaway	Gutknecht	McCotter
Crenshaw	Hall	McCrery

McHenry	Putnam	Sodrel
McKeon	Ramstad	Souder
McMorris	Regula	Stearns
Mica	Rehberg	Sullivan
Miller (FL)	Reichert	Sweeney
Miller (MI)	Renzi	Tancredo
Moran (KS)	Reynolds	Taylor (NC)
Murphy	Rogers (AL)	Terry
Musgrave	Rogers (KY)	Thomas
Neugebauer	Rogers (MI)	Thornberry
Northup	Rohrabacher	Tiahrt
Norwood	Ros-Lehtinen	Tiberi
Nunes	Royce	Turner
Nussle	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Osborne	Ryun (KS)	Walden (OR)
Otter	Saxton	Walsh
Oxley	Schmidt	Wamp
Pearce	Schwarz (MI)	Weldon (FL)
Pence	Sensenbrenner	Weldon (PA)
Peterson (PA)	Sessions	Weller
Petri	Shadegg	Westmoreland
Pickering	Shaw	Whitfield
Pitts	Shays	Wicker
Platts	Sherwood	Wilson (SC)
Poe	Shimkus	Wolf
Pombo	Shuster	Young (AK)
Porter	Simmons	Young (FL)
Price (GA)	Simpson	
Pryce (OH)	Smith (TX)	

NAYS—206

Abercrombie	Green, Al	Moran (VA)
Ackerman	Green, Gene	Murtha
Allen	Grijalva	Nadler
Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Napolitano
Baird	Herseth	Neal (MA)
Baldwin	Higgins	Ney
Barrow	Hinchey	Oberstar
Bean	Hinojosa	Obey
Becerra	Holden	Olver
Berkley	Holt	Ortiz
Berman	Honda	Owens
Berry	Hooley	Pallone
Bishop (GA)	Hoyer	Pascarell
Bishop (NY)	Inslie	Pastor
Blumenauer	Israel	Paul
Boren	Jackson (IL)	Payne
Boswell	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi
Boucher	(TX)	Peterson (MN)
Boyd	Jefferson	Pomeroy
Brady (PA)	Johnson (IL)	Price (NC)
Brown (OH)	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Brown, Corrine	Jones (OH)	Rangel
Butterfield	Kanjorski	Ross
Buyer	Kaptur	Rothman
Capps	Kennedy (RI)	Ruppersberger
Capuano	Kildee	Rush
Cardin	Kilpatrick (MI)	Ryan (OH)
Cardoza	Kind	Sabo
Carnahan	Kucinich	Salazar
Carson	Langevin	Sánchez, Linda T.
Case	Lantos	Sanchez, Loretta
Chandler	Larsen (WA)	Sanders
Clay	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
Cleaver	LaTourette	Schiff
Clyburn	Leach	Schwartz (PA)
Conyers	Lee	Scott (GA)
Cooper	Levin	Scott (VA)
Costa	Lewis (GA)	Serrano
Costello	Lipinski	Sherman
Cramer	Lofgren, Zoe	Skelton
Crowley	Lowe	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lynch	Smith (NJ)
Cummings	Maloney	Smith (WA)
Davis (AL)	Markey	Snyder
Davis (CA)	Marshall	Solis
Davis (FL)	Matheson	Spratt
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Stark
Davis (TN)	McCarthy	Strickland
DeFazio	McCollum (MN)	Stupak
DeGette	McDermott	Tanner
DeLahunt	McGovern	Tauscher
DeLauro	McHugh	Taylor (MS)
Dicks	McIntyre	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	McKinney	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	McNulty	Thompson
Doyle	Meehan	Tierney
Edwards	Meek (FL)	Towns
Engel	Meeks (NY)	Udall (CO)
Eshoo	Melancon	Udall (NM)
Etheridge	Menendez	Van Hollen
Evans	Michaud	Velázquez
Farr	Millender-	Visclosky
Fattah	McDonald	Wasserman
Filner	Miller (NC)	Schultz
Ford	Miller, George	Waters
Frank (MA)	Mollohan	Watson
Gonzalez	Moore (KS)	Watt
Gordon	Moore (WI)	Waxman