

Republican Motion #9

ENSURE STATES' RIGHTS OVER THEIR HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

Offered by Representative Buddy Carter (GA-01)

Mr. Carter moves that the Committee on the Budget direct its Chairman to request on behalf of the Committee that the rule providing for consideration of the bill make in order an amendment to reaffirm states have appropriate and necessary rights, authority, and administration over their respective health care programs.

Background

- (1) Established as a state option in 1965, Medicaid—a state-administered health insurance program to support low-income children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities—receives matched federal funding so long as certain requirements are met. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) sought to force states to increase Medicaid program eligibility to individuals earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), supplanting states' established eligibility criteria. This federal government overreach, however, was determined by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional in 2012 and the expansion was left to be a state choice.
- (2) Twelve states continue to reject such expansion and currently elect to provide care for their vulnerable population on terms that meet the needs of their residents and the state's financial resources.
- (3) This legislation contains provisions that circumvent state authority to provide Medicaid care to their vulnerable populations by creating a federalized Medicaid program to cover certain individuals in states that have previously rejected expansion attempts.
- (4) This program will be designed without any input from states and only makes individuals further dependent on government welfare programs instead of allowing states to find innovative solutions to address their health care needs.
- (5) Furthermore, this legislation would have the federal government overreach its authority once again by having the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) establish federally-controlled reinsurance programs in non-expansion state marketplaces to camouflage the federal government's reckless spending in premium subsidies.