

10 Things You Should Know About the Permanent Doc Fix

Here are 10 things you should know about this legislation:

1. H.R. 2 strengthens Medicare and provides stability for seniors and their doctors. The legislation moves beyond the sustainable growth rate (SGR) to a better system that ensures seniors have access to their doctors and the high-quality care they deserve.

2. H.R. 2 establishes the first real, structural entitlement reform in nearly two decades – offsetting all new spending without tax increases. These reforms – increased means-testing and prohibition of Medigap “first-dollar coverage” – have long been part of Republican budgets. For the first time, however, Democrats agreed to these reforms without demanding tax hikes – a breakthrough and a win for conservatives.

3. With these structural reforms, H.R. 2 reduces the deficit over the long term. Looking ahead – 20, 30, and 40 years down the road – these reforms will produce hundreds of billions in durable savings for taxpayers, while the status quo only provides the illusion of savings. As an example, [former CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin](#) writes that these reforms “will continue to reap benefits in the years beyond the budget window,” estimating \$230 billion in savings in the second decade alone.

4. With these structural reforms, H.R. 2 drives more competition into Medicare, bending the cost curve and putting these programs on a more sound financial footing. While additional reforms are necessary, these policies are an essential first-step toward larger reforms.

5. After 17 short-term patches since 2003, H.R. 2 **ends the cycle of cliffs and “must-pass” ‘doc fix’ bills** that have often served as vehicles for more spending and new programs.

6. H.R. 2 **strengthens Medicare’s ability to fight fraud, waste, and abuse** by, among other things, removing Social Security numbers from beneficiaries’ Medicare cards, preventing Medicare payments for deceased and ineligible individuals, and removing burdensome reporting policies for employers.

7. H.R. 2 **extends the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and traditional Medicare extenders for two years**, giving House committees time to lay the groundwork for better reforms under a new president.

8. By extending CHIP, H.R. 2 **keeps more than three million Americans from becoming uninsured or enrolled in ObamaCare exchanges**.

9. H.R. 2 **applies traditional Hyde Amendment protections** to Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers.

10. H.R. 2 is **supported by leaders of both parties, at least 75 physician groups, and a number of** conservative organizations, including Americans for Tax Reform, American Action Forum, the Galen Institute and the National Taxpayers Union.