



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### **A RESOLUTION ENCOURING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, millions of Americans rely on the federal government's programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and funding for education; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Security is crucial for keeping millions of older Americans out of poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, Social Security benefits have important implications for the health and well-being of the elderly, and reductions in funding would lead to negative health outcomes for elderly adults; and

**WHEREAS**, without Social Security, 37.8% of elderly adults would have incomes below the official poverty line. With Social Security benefits, only 9% are currently below the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, about 6.5 million children under the age of 18 live in families that received income from Social Security in 2020, and these benefits lift approximately 1 million children above the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid covers 91 million Americans, making it the largest source of health care coverage in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid covers 42% of all births, 6.9 million individuals aged 65 and over, and 10 million individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid pays for 10% of long-term care; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid coverage is linked directly to better health outcomes. Coverage in early life is associated with a decreased incidence of chronic conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid beneficiaries are 13% less likely to have medical debt and 80% less likely to have experienced catastrophic medical expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been discussions of raising the retirement age of Medicare from 65 to 67, re-opening the Medicare prescription drug donut hole, and increasing out of pocket drug spending for seniors, which would have a devastating effect on those that receive these benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for education directly impacts student achievement and academic performance; and

**WHEREAS**, a 10% cut in education spending yielded a 7% of standard deviation decrease in academic achievement and, over four years, decreased graduation rates by almost 3%; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, a \$1,000 reduction in per-pupil spending reduces average test scores in math and reading by 3.9% and lowers the college-going rate by almost 3%; and

**WHEREAS**, education funding also directly affects staff, and a \$1,000 decline in spending per pupil is associated with a hiring 3.7% fewer teachers, 5.3% fewer instruction aides, 3.3% fewer library staff members, and 12% fewer guidance counselors; and

**WHEREAS**, a \$1,000 reduction in per-pupil spending, on average, increases the score gap between black and white students by about 6%; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby encourage the Illinois Congressional delegation to reject any cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Illinois' Congressional delegation, the House Speaker and Minority Leader, the Senate Majority Leader and Minority Leader, and the White House.