

“Research”

AD	FACTS
<p>Matt: This is my Grandma. She depends on Social Security and Medicare, so I researched the Senate race for her.</p> <p>Barbara: He’s a nice boy.</p> <p>Matt: I learned that Tillis supports a plan that would end Medicare as we know it and raise premiums. Tillis is bad news Grams.</p> <p>On screen: Thom Tillis supports ending traditional Medicare Raleigh News &amp; Observer, 6/5/12</p>	<p><b><u>TILLIS SUPPORTED THE RYAN BUDGET WHICH WOULD “END TRADITIONAL MEDICARE” AND END “THE GUARANTEED BENEFIT IN MEDICARE”</u></b></p> <p><b>2014: Tillis Praised The FY 2015 Ryan Budget, Saying “I Hope That the President Follows What the House has Done.”</b> In an April 2014 interview Tillis was asked how he would cut the deficit. TILLIS: “Well I hope that the President follows what the House has done with passing a budget recently that eliminates the debt, the deficit, over 10 years. That’s a good starting point. We’ve got to get our hands around spending. We’ve got to recognize that we’re going to have to pay down an 18 - approaching 18 trillion dollar deficit. And I think that there are things in the House budget that the President should look at. Lead this nation and try to get a budget passed for the first time in a long time.” [Raleigh News &amp; Observer, Tillis video interview, <a href="#">4/18/14</a>; Vote #177, <a href="#">4/10/14</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>AARP: Republican Budget Would Remove The Medicare Guarantee.</b> According to an AARP press release, “Chairman Ryan’s proposed budget fails to address the high costs of health care and instead shifts costs onto seniors and future retirees. Repealing the benefits of the Affordable Care Act ignores the progress we’ve made to improve access to health care and protect against discrimination based on age, gender or medical history. Removing the Medicare guarantee of affordable health coverage for older Americans by implementing a premium support system and asking seniors and future retirees to pay more is not the right direction.” [AARP Press Release, <a href="#">4/1/14</a>]</li><li>• <b>Ryan Budget Would Force Medicare Into Voucher Program.</b> “House Republicans will revive Rep. Paul Ryan’s lightning-rod proposals to slash the federal safety net, beef up military spending and reduce taxes for the wealthy in a budget unveiled Tuesday -- an election-year calling card that Democrats are poised to use against the GOP. The blueprint from Ryan, the party’s former vice presidential nominee, is expected to be met with stiff opposition not only from Democrats, but also from hard-line Republicans who want deeper austerity cuts to more quickly balance the budget. Like President Obama’s own budget earlier this year, Ryan’s proposal for the 2015 fiscal year is largely a philosophical statement of principles. Neither document has much practical use this year because spending levels have already been agreed to by Congress. But in a campaign season, Ryan’s ‘Path to Prosperity’ budget is expected to provide voters with a clear choice of party priorities. House Republicans will return to the core ideas from Ryan, the Budget Committee chairman, that have come to define the party’s approach: Cut federal spending on Medicare, Medicaid and other programs that make up the federal safety net, while reducing top individual and corporate tax rates to 25%, which Republicans argue will spur economic growth. Ryan retained his idea for turning the Medicare health system into a voucher-like program for future seniors, providing a fixed amount of cash that can be applied toward the purchase of private health insurance. The voucher may also be used to enroll in traditional Medicare, but it may not fully cover the cost.” [Los Angeles Times, <a href="#">4/1/14</a>]</li></ul> <p><b>Tillis Said The Ryan Plan Was “Absolutely” Comparable To What He Would Push In The North Carolina Legislature.</b> “As Congressman Paul Ryan pitched his budget plan Tuesday in Raleigh, he sat between two important Republicans listening intently: Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Thom Tillis. Ryan’s budget calls for serious reductions in federal spending, privatizing Medicare plans and eliminating the six current tax rates to</p>

two, 10 percent and 25 percent. Tillis suggested elements of the plan are a model for North Carolina, particularly eliminating taxes and loopholes. Asked whether Ryan's plan is comparable to what the legislature is doing at the state level, Tillis said 'absolutely.' 'If you take a look at our strategy for broadening the (tax) base and lowering the (tax) rate ... and eliminating loops holes, it's exactly the same framework,' he said." [Raleigh News & Observer, Under the Dome, [6/5/12](#)]

- **Raleigh News & Observer's Under The Dome: "N.C. Republicans See Paul Ryan's Controversial Budget As A Model."** [Raleigh News & Observer, Under the Dome, [6/5/12](#)]
- **Tillis Thought Romney And Ryan Could Deal With "Structural Problems" With The Debt.** In September 2012, in an interview with "Rock the Red" Tillis was asked, "How do you think Romney and Paul Ryan came across? Do you think that they came across as the answer to the problems that a lot of Americans are dealing with?" Tillis responded: "I think that, I think what they did and what I really believe is that the DNC should do is just recognize that there is a problem. In the week that the deficit surpassed 16 trillion dollars don't pretend that nothing but a threat to national security and our economic security. I met both Gov. Romney and Rep. Ryan on a personal basis. I'm convinced that they get the structural problems that need to be dealt with and I know that they can do it. They need to communicate that in a way the average voter, the average citizen can understand and I think if they do they will be very successful." [Transcript, Rock the Red Interview, 9/5/12] ([video](#))

**Ryan Plan "Calls For An End To The Guaranteed Benefit In Medicare And Replaces It With A System That Would Give Vouchers To Recipients To Pay For Health Insurance" Which Could Increase Costs For Seniors.** "Ryan's plan calls for an end to the guaranteed benefit in Medicare and replaces it with a system that would give vouchers to recipients to pay for health insurance. The risk in such a plan is that if healthcare costs rise faster than the value of the vouchers, seniors would have to pay the difference." [Reuters, [8/12/12](#)]

**FY 2013 Ryan Plan "Would End Traditional Medicare By Capping Spending And Offer Vouchers To Buy Private Insurance."** "The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that Obama pushed for doesn't cut Medicare; it simply reduces projected future increases in costs by \$700 billion over 10 years. [...] Those same reductions in the future growth of Medicare are contained in the budget bills sponsored by Ryan and approved by the same House Republicans who now say they'll campaign against the provision. Romney has endorsed the Ryan plan. The difference is the savings in the Republican bill don't go to help seniors with their prescription drug costs. In fact, Ryan's legislation increases the amount senior citizens will have to pay for drugs since it repeals the health-care legislation that provides the extra subsidy. Ryan's budget bill also would end traditional Medicare by capping spending and offer vouchers to buy private insurance." [Bloomberg, [8/13/12](#)]

#### **RYAN PLAN WOULD INCREASE COSTS FOR SENIORS**

**Nonpartisan Study: Converting Medicare Into A Voucher Program Would Increase Premiums For The Majority Of Seniors, Even Those Who Choose To Remain In Traditional Medicare.** According to Talking Points Memo, "Converting Medicare into a voucher program modeled on the plan Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have proposed would increase premiums for the majority of seniors, even ones who choose to remain in traditional Medicare, according to a comprehensive nonpartisan study (PDF) released Monday. The Kaiser Family Foundation delved into the likely impact of transforming Medicare into a 'premium support' system. Under that approach, the federal government would provide seniors a subsidy to shop for insurance plans from a menu of competing private

plans and traditional Medicare. That subsidy would be capped at the value of the second least costly premium in the marketplace. Using 2010 data as a model, Kaiser's study found that among seniors who chose to remain in traditional Medicare, more than half would have paid higher premiums. Just under half would have paid the same. That would've yielded an average premium hike of \$720 annually for seniors who chose to remain in traditional Medicare. [...] Taken together, 59 percent of Medicare beneficiaries would have ended up paying higher premiums than they do in the current system if they remained in their current plan" [Talking Points Memo, [10/15/12](#); Kaiser Health News, [10/15/12](#)]

**CBO Estimated The Ryan Plan Could Increase Costs For Seniors.** "CBO said it's possible that seniors would face higher costs under the Ryan plan, and said other possible side effects include 'reduced access to health care; diminished quality of care; increased efficiency of health care delivery; less investment in new, high-cost technologies; or some combination of those outcomes.' The budget office did not make specific projections about any of those possibilities, though it noted that some would 'necessarily' be heightened under the Ryan plan because federal spending would be so much lower." [The Hill, [3/20/12](#)]

**CBPP: The Ryan Medicare Plan Would "Replace Medicare's Guarantee Of Health Coverage With Premium-Support Payments To Seniors" And "Over Time, More Costs Would Likely Be Pushed On To Beneficiaries."** "The Ryan plan would also replace Medicare's guarantee of health coverage with premium-support payments to seniors (starting with new beneficiaries in 2023) that they would use to buy coverage from private insurance companies or traditional Medicare. The growth in these payments each year would be limited to the percentage increase in per capita GDP plus one-half percentage point. For more than 30 years, however, health care costs per beneficiary in the United States have risen an average of about two percentage points per year faster than GDP per capita. CBO thus projects that under the Ryan budget, federal Medicare expenditures on behalf of an average 67-year-old beneficiary would, by 2050, be 35 percent to 42 percent lower than under current law. Under the Ryan budget, moreover, Medicare would no longer make payments to health care providers such as doctors and hospitals; it would instead provide premium-support vouchers to beneficiaries that they'd use to help buy coverage from private insurance companies or traditional Medicare. Therefore, the only way to keep Medicare cost growth within the GDP +0.5 percentage-point target would be to limit the annual increase in the government's premium-support vouchers. That would very likely cause the vouchers to grow more slowly than health care costs — and hence purchase less coverage with each passing year. Over time, more costs would likely be pushed on to beneficiaries." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/20/12](#)]

**AARP: The Ryan Medicare Plan "Is Likely To Simply Increase Costs For Beneficiaries While Removing Medicare's Promise Of Secure Health Coverage."** AARP CEO Barry Rand: "Yesterday's budget proposal appropriately acknowledges that health care costs must be addressed if the federal budget is to be balanced. However, rather than recognizing that health care is an unavoidable necessity which must be made more affordable for all Americans, this proposal simply shifts these high and growing costs onto Medicare beneficiaries, and it then shifts even higher costs of increased uninsured care onto everyone else. The typical Medicare beneficiary today, living on an income of roughly \$20,000, already struggles to pay for their ever-rising health and prescription drug costs — and nearly 20 percent of their income currently goes to health care costs. By creating a 'premium support' system for future Medicare beneficiaries, the proposal is likely to simply increase costs for beneficiaries while removing Medicare's promise of secure health coverage — a guarantee that future seniors have contributed to through a lifetime of hard work." [AARP, Letter to Congress, [3/21/12](#)]

Barbara: Oh, I know. But did you know

**TILLIS REFUSED TO SUPPORT A BILL LETTING STUDENTS REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS**

Tillis won't support a bill to let students refinance their college loans, so you're gonna pay more.

On screen: Thom Tillis won't support refinancing student loans  
Raleigh News & Observer, 6/11/14

Matt: What?

Barbara: Yep, Tillis is stickin' it to you too

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**Tillis Refused To Support A Bill To Let Students Refinance Old Student Loans At Current, Lower Rates.** "The U.S. Senate blocked a bill on Tuesday that would let students refinance old student loans that have high rates at the current lower rates. [...] State House Speaker Thom Tillis, who's running against Hagan, declined through his spokesman Daniel Keylin to say whether he would have voted for or against the measure. Later in the day he issued a statement that said: 'The bill has many glaring issues, like the fact it significantly increases the national debt, doesn't make college more affordable, and does nothing to create jobs for the millions of recent graduates who are unemployed because of the failed economic policies of Kay Hagan and President Obama.'" [Under the Dome, Raleigh News & Observer, [6/11/14](#)]

**"678,000 Student Loan Borrowers in North Carolina Would Benefit from Refinancing"** [Generation Progress, [8/26/14](#)]

**Refinancing Student Loans Would Help Borrowers Save Thousands Over The Life Of Their Loans.** "Ultimately, refinancing student loans will help 25 million borrowers save an average of \$2,000 over the life of their loan and help families become more financially stable." [Generation Progress, [8/26/14](#)]