

# ***ADVISORY***

## **FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: (202) 225-3625

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### **Chairman Camp Announces Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius**

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) today announced that the Committee on Ways and Means will hold a hearing on President Obama's budget proposals for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for fiscal year 2015. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, in 1100 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

In view of the limited time available to hear witnesses, oral testimony at this hearing will be from the invited witness only. The sole witness will be the Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. However, any individual or organization not scheduled for an oral appearance may submit a written statement for consideration by the Committee and for inclusion in the printed record of the hearing.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On March 4, 2014, President Obama submitted his fiscal year 2015 budget proposal to Congress. The President's proposed budget contains his tax, spending and policy proposals for the coming fiscal year, including his proposed budget for the Department of Health and Human Services and the programs it oversees and operates. Many of the Department's programs such as Medicare, health care programs under the Affordable Care Act and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are within the Committee's jurisdiction.

In announcing this hearing, Chairman Camp said, "Reviewing the budget, I am troubled by the President's decision to ignore what he once saw as a crisis in our entitlement programs. By leaving out any real reforms to protect and preserve Medicare, the President has chosen to provide political cover in an election year when what this country needs most are solutions that protect both today's seniors and future generations.

"We also must ask difficult questions about HHS' troubled efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act. Open enrollment is almost over, enrollment is behind schedule and the website is not completed. Most importantly, the American people are facing higher premiums, fewer health care choices and a loss of wages – the exact opposite of what they need in a tough economy. Administrative delays and exemptions cannot fix this law, and the Committee looks forward to hearing how Secretary Sebelius plans to work with Congress to solve this crisis.

"Members also look forward to reviewing the Administration's proposals affecting human services programs, including those that may help welfare recipients replace welfare checks with paychecks or assist youth in foster care become successful adults."

#### FOCUS OF THE HEARING:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius will discuss the details of the President's HHS FY15 budget proposals that are within the Committee's jurisdiction.

#### DETAILS FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Please Note: Any person(s) and/or organization(s) wishing to submit for the hearing record must follow the appropriate link on the hearing page of the Committee website and complete the informational forms. From the Committee homepage, <http://waysandmeans.house.gov> <<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>> , select "Hearings." Select the hearing for which you would like to submit, and click on the link entitled, "Click here to provide a submission for the record." Once you have followed the online instructions, submit all requested information. ATTACH your submission as a Word or WordPerfect document, in compliance with the formatting requirements listed below, by the close of business on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Finally, please note that

due to the change in House mail policy, the U.S. Capitol Police will refuse sealed-package deliveries to all House Office Buildings. For questions, or if you encounter technical problems, please call