

September 25, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) voted yesterday to protect 11 million seniors from being hit with an increase in their Medicare Part B premiums when they can least afford it. Medicare Part B premiums are currently deducted from seniors' Social Security checks each month. Since seniors are not expected to receive an increase in their Social Security checks next year, increased Medicare Part B premiums would leave seniors with less money to live on each month.

**“Millions of American seniors are already struggling to make ends meet,” Altmire said. “The last thing seniors need right now is to see their Social Security checks decrease next year because of higher Medicare premiums. This legislation will help to ensure that does not happen.”**

Without Congressional action, 27 percent of Medicare enrollees would have seen their Medicare Part B premiums increase next year, even though their Social Security checks mostly likely will not increase.

The Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631) is fully paid for and will not add one penny to the federal deficit. The bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 406-18, must still be approved by the U.S. Senate before it can be signed into law.