September 24, 2009

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) backed legislation that will protect seniors' financial security by halting currently planned increases to standard Medicare Part B premiums. Without this change, more than a quarter of the 42 million people enrolled in Medicare Part B would see their monthly premiums automatically increase.

"It's imperative that we stop increases to Medicare premiums during these tough economic times," said Rep. McNerney. "The changes that this legislation makes will help ensure that millions of American seniors who rely on Medicare will not have to pay more for their health care."

Increases in standard Medicare Part B premiums are usually off-set by additional Social Security income. However, Social Security benefits are expected to receive a zero percent cost-of-living adjustment because of the downturn in the economy. H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, will help address this issue by keeping standard Medicare Part B premiums at the current rate of $96.40 per month.

The Medicare Premium Fairness Act passed by a vote of 406-18.