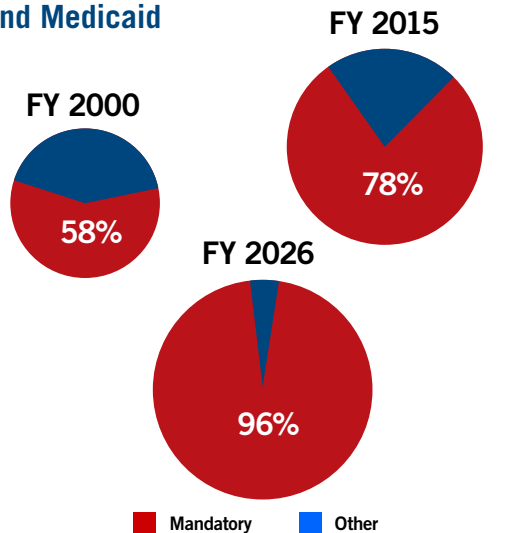


# 2017-18 Legislative Priorities: *Federal Entitlement Reform*

**GOAL: Lead a State and National Discussion About the Growing Need to Reform and Modernize America's Entitlement Programs, Especially Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid**

## ***Chamber Members Advocate:***

- Supporting a nationwide communications and outreach campaign to alert the business community, general public and news media about the serious financial programs facing federal entitlement programs.
- Practical reforms including: reasonable adjustments in payments, benefit options, eligibility, and efficiencies in administration.
- Urging all members of Michigan's Congressional delegation to make this key economic issue a priority in 2017-18.



**Mandatory Spending (Entitlements + Net Interest)**

Source: CBO Baseline (August 2016)



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## **WHY?**

We agree with the US Chamber. Inaction on federal entitlement reform represents a clear and present danger to job creation and economic growth.

The looming federal entitlement crisis is a national challenge. However, state and local government in Michigan are not immune to the consequences of inaction. Growing federal budget pressures stemming from the growing cost of entitlement programs will increasingly have a negative impact on every

level of government, forcing governors and state lawmakers to make difficult choices on raising taxes and/or cutting spending.

Inaction on federal entitlement reform would also short change the next generation, saddling younger American with mounting debt and higher taxes, while cutting back on investments in education and infrastructure or reducing necessary spending on national defense.