

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: January 30, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Pocan Campaign: Raises Over \$150,000 This Quarter
Dan McNally
January 30, 2012
WisPolitics.Com

Mark Pocan's campaign has raised contributions from over 1000 individuals and organizations that total up to \$150,000. His candidacy for the 2nd Congressional District seat has been endorsed by a multitude of organizations including the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://www.wispolitics.com/index.html?Article=259555>

Florida Seniors Speak Out against Voter Suppression
Laura Markwardt
January 30, 2012
AFL-CIO Now Blog

Laura Markwardt, senior communications associate at the Alliance for Retired Americans, submitted a piece detailing the sentiments of many seniors and other voters upon the Florida primary on January 31. Hundreds of seniors and various supporters rallied in Fort Myers on Friday in opposition to voter suppression. Recent changes in Florida's election rules will shorten the early voting period from fourteen days to seven, which impacts many seniors who wish to vote as well as disproportionately affects African-American and Hispanic voters. Florida Alliance for Retired Americans President Tony Fransetta spoke at the rally about his concerns, asserting that the law is a way to "limit voter turnout – and it shouldn't stand."

<http://blog.aflcio.org/2012/01/30/florida-seniors-speak-out-against-voter-suppression/>

US Senate Holds Hearing on State's Voting Laws
January 27, 2012
Tampa Bay Online

Here is a news clip detailing the U.S. Senate rally in Fort Myers opposing Florida's voting laws and the various groups that came out against it. FLARA President Tony Fransetta can be spotted on stage along with other supporters. The corresponding article is paired along with the video clip.

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/politics/2012/jan/27/us-senate-holds-hearing-on-states-votin-32908-vi-25821/>

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/news/2012/jan/28/democratic-senators-hold-hearing-on-states-voting--ar-352287/>

Local Seniors Rally against Cuts to Medicare
January 26, 2012
WINK News, a CBS affiliate serving southwest Florida

More coverage on the rally in Fort Myers can be found here, along with video of FLARA President Tony Fransetta speaking to the crowd.

<http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2012-01-26/Local-seniors-rally-against-cuts-to-Medicare->

DEBT: Stop Blaming Victims of the Recession
Jo A. Jacobson
January 27, 2012
The News Tribune

Washington Alliance for Retired Americans member Jo A. Jacobson pens a letter to the editor expressing concerns about Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels Republican rebuttal to President Obama's State Of The Union address. She rejects the Republican claim that Social Security and Medicare need to be cut and instead proposes that instead of blaming retirees and working families, that we really examine what truly must change in America, especially among large corporations.

<http://blog.thenewstribune.com/letters/2012/01/27/the-victims-of-this-recession/#storylink=cpy>

Democrats' Strategy on Medicare: Let Ryan, Republicans Step In It Again
Mike Lillis
January 27, 2012
The Hill

The Alliance for Retired Americans is mentioned in this article as a strong opponent to proposed Republican entitlement cuts. A leader from the ARA was a key speaker at the Democrats' annual Eastern Shore retreat last Thursday (January 26).

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/206997-dems-strategy-on-medicare-let-gop-step-in-it-again>

Health Care

Fla. Seniors Hear Little from Candidates on Entitlements
Tracy Jan
January 30, 2012

The Boston Globe

Many Florida seniors have voiced disappointment over the GOP candidates' lack of discussion on the government entitlement programs that have been threatened by cuts, especially on the verge of the Fla. primary on January 31. Within the article, several seniors weigh in on the different options floating around about Medicare and Social Security – from supporters of the current healthcare plan to Tea Party supporters of full privatization and every view in between.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2012/01/30/seniors-florida-disappointed-that-candidates-say-little-about-social-security-and-medicare/q2qPgQu2yD1niHNFBkIwhL/story.html>

Medicare Seen as Battleground Issue in Congressional Races

Robert Pear

January 27, 2012

The New York Times

In various congressional seat races across the country, the issue of Medicare has become a large playmaker in the political game. Many Democratic candidates are looking to oust current Republicans whom support various cuts to the program, especially those whom support Congressman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) to privatize it. Republicans are ready for the strong attacks from the Democrats as Medicare is expected to be a hot-button issue for the next decade. The population of seniors 65 and older is expected to triple within that time span.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/28/us/politics/medicare-looms-over-congressional-races.html?pagewanted=1&r=2&sq=Robert%20Pear&st=cse&scp=6>

Ron Wyden Gives GOP Cover on Medicare Reform

Jonathan Allen and Manu Raju

January 26, 2012

Politico

Democrats are worried that the collaborative effort between Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Rep. Ron Wyden (D-OR) will give the GOP an out in the hot topic of Medicare. Initially, Ryan proposed a plan that would eradicate much of the health care haul instilled by the Obama reform. However, due to major backlash, Ryan is now approaching the issue with a different approach and has recruited Wyden to assist him, not only with the plan itself but to also soften the attacks from Democrats.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0112/72053.html>

In Retiree-Heavy Florida, Health Reform Not a Popular Topic

Andy Sullivan

January 27, 2012
Reuters

As the January 31 GOP Primary approaches in Florida, the common theme going around the state is the lack of the candidates' dialogue on their Medicare proposals. This comes in a state where seniors and populations affected by Medicare control a large concentration of the voting power. Political analysts say that the candidates stray from the subject because they want to secure votes, and their positions may not reflect the desires and views of the senior voting constituency.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/27/us-usa-campaign-health-idUSTRE80Q1X620120127>