

## Alliance News and Press Clips for October 13, 2011

### **Alliance Mentions**

Young protesters inspire seniors  
Tony Fransetta  
The Miami Herald  
October 13, 2011

In a time when many of our elected officials are more concerned with their own elections than about speaking out on behalf of the people they represent, at least some real courage is coming from young people piecing together who's responsible for the mess we're in and speaking out against Wall Street greed and those who do Wall Street's bidding. Seniors need to join the effort to help our children and give courage to our elected representatives to stand up for America's future.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/10/12/2451152/young-protesters-inspire-seniors.html#ixzz1afRNium7>

### **Medicare**

Medicare advocates lobby in D.C. to preserve program  
Kyung M. Song  
The Seattle Times  
October 12, 2011

Advocates for older Americans fear Congress may turn to Medicare for savings to help cut the federal deficit. On Wednesday, 500 activists and lobbyists with AARP fanned out on Capitol Hill to buttonhole lawmakers or their staffers to preserve Medicare and Social Security benefits. Simultaneously, AARP launched its second national TV ad campaign in two months demanding Congress keep its hands off those programs or risk backlash by 50 million seniors on Election Day. Other advocacy groups for seniors also have bombarded Congress with calls, emails and petitions.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016486531\\_medicare13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016486531_medicare13m.html)

Survey: Medicare patients clueless about health plan ratings  
Julian Pecquet  
The Hill  
October 12, 2011

The Department of Health and Human Services has been using a new Medicare Star Quality Ratings program as a way for seniors to pick the best plan. However, a new Kaiser Permanente survey has found that only 18 percent of beneficiaries are familiar with it - and only 2 percent actually knew their current plan's rating. The survey comes as the annual enrollment period for seniors starts Saturday.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/187143-survey-medicare-patients-clueless-about-health-plan-ratings>

U.S. deficit panel weighs Medicare doctor payments

Donna Smith

Reuters

October 12, 2011

The congressional "super committee" charged with reducing U.S. budget deficits is considering tackling a measure that could make their job even harder by preventing a steep pay cut for Medicare doctors. If Congress fails to act by the end of the year, doctors treating patients enrolled in the Medicare healthcare program for the elderly and disabled will be hit with a 30 percent pay cut in January. The pay cut is rooted in a 14-year-old deficit-reduction law aimed at reining in growing Medicare payments to doctors. Health care advocates warn that the steep pay cut could make it difficult for Medicare patients to find doctors willing to see them.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/12/us-deficit-medicare-idUSTRE79B7G920111012>

## Politics

Herman Cain's misleading pitch for the '9-9-9' plan

Glenn Kessler

Washington Post

October 13, 2011

In Herman Cain's 9-9-9 tax plan, much of the current federal tax code would be tossed out and replaced. There would eventually and temporarily be three taxes—a nine percent income tax, a nine percent corporate tax and a nine percent federal sales tax. The first two look like cuts, because payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare (now nearly 15 percent, including corporate contributions) would be repealed but the sales tax would be new and added on top of existing state sales taxes. Implementing the three taxes would be the second of three steps, the first step would cut individual and corporate tax rates to a top 25 percent rate (down from a current high of 35 percent) and the final step would replace all of the taxes—even the 9s—with a national sales tax, known by proponents as a 'Fair Tax'.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/herman-cains-misleading-pitch-for-the-999-plan/2011/10/12/gIQAHszPgL\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/herman-cains-misleading-pitch-for-the-999-plan/2011/10/12/gIQAHszPgL_blog.html)

Poll: Cain is voters' first pick for GOP nominee

Daniel Strauss

The Hill

October 12, 2011

Businessman Herman Cain would be voters' first choice for the Republican presidential nomination according to a new poll. The NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Wednesday evening found that 27 percent of voters would pick Cain as their first choice for the Republican nomination followed by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney with 23 percent and Texas Gov. Rick Perry at 16 percent.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/187241-poll-27-percent-say-cain-is-first-choice-for-gop-nomination-23-say-romney>

Why some Democrats oppose Obama's jobs bill

Rosalind S. Helderman

The Washington Post

October 12, 2011

Two Democrats voted against Obama's job plan, Sens. Jon Tester (Mont.) and Ben Nelson (Neb.), stating that it wasn't because they opposed the President but because they didn't believe the job plan was a good policy. Tester said that he supports some elements of the president's plan, including offering tax credits to businesses that hire veterans and boosting federal spending for infrastructure construction, and that he could vote for those pieces of the plan if they were presented separately for consideration.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/why-some-democrats-oppose-obamas-jobs-bill/2011/10/12/gIQAILfBgL\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/why-some-democrats-oppose-obamas-jobs-bill/2011/10/12/gIQAILfBgL_story.html)

Wisconsin Republican Proposes Changing State's Electoral College Law

John Celock

The Huffington Post

October 13, 2011

Wisconsin State Rep. Dan LeMathieu (R-Sheboygan County) is proposing that the state switch its distribution of electoral votes to district-based awards. LeMathieu emailed legislators Wednesday morning asking for support for a bill he filed to switch the state from winner-take-all electoral votes to distribution based on presidential candidates winning congressional districts, with only two electoral votes going to the statewide winner.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/12/wisconsin-electoral-college-law\\_n\\_1007841.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/12/wisconsin-electoral-college-law_n_1007841.html)