

## **Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 6, 2012**

### **Alliance Mentions**

The Affordable Care Act Saved Seniors Money and Kept Them Healthy in 2011

Adam Swope

February 3, 2012

The Moscow Villager

Data for 2011 provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services offers plenty of support for the Affordable Care Act. Statistics show that 2.65 million Americans saved over \$1.5 billion last year alone. Additionally, services made possible by the Affordable Care Act are highlighted such as the discount on prescription drugs, annual no-copay wellness visits and free preventative services. Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans President Jean Friday offered favorable words about the ACA, spotlighting its success since its two year installation.

<http://www.moscowvillager.com/news/x370663684/The-Affordable-Care-Act-saved-seniors-money-and-kept-them-healthy-in-2011>

Affordable Care Act Saves Seniors \$2.1 Billion in Drug Costs

Mike Hall

February 2, 2012

AFL-CIO Blog

In regards to prescription drugs, the Affordable Care Act has saved 3.6 million people over \$2.1 billion in 2011. Beginning this year, the discount on generic prescription drugs will increase from 7% to 14% while the discount on brand name drugs will remain at 50%. The average savings per beneficiary was \$604 in 2011. The Alliance for Retired Americans (shown in the corresponding photo) is one of the ACA's most outspoken supporters.

<http://blog.aflcio.org/2012/02/02/affordable-care-act-saves-seniors-2-1-billion-in-drug-costs/>

### **Health Care**

Democrats' Campaign Leader Confident Medicare Issue Will Make Pelosi Speaker

Erik Wasson

February 4, 2012

The Hill

New York Representative and chairperson of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Steve Israel is confident that fellow Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will be Speaker of the House in the next election cycle thanks to the issue of Medicare. Since most Republicans supported Rep. Paul Ryan's plan to transform Medicare into a voucher plan, the

Democrats are hoping that the backlash from that proposal will give the Democrats a strong push in Congressional races around the nation and propel Pelosi to the Speaker position once more.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/208687-dem-leader-confident-medicare-issue-will-make-pelosi-speaker-again>

Romney Campaign Slams Santorum on Health Care  
Julian Pecquet  
February 6, 2012  
The Hill

For the first time this campaign run, GOP Candidate Mitt Romney has fired back at fellow candidate Rick Santorum for his attack on health care. Santorum has been Romney's biggest critic on health care, stating that while Governor of Massachusetts, the 2006 health care reform he signed into law is strikingly similar to President Obama's 2010 health care overhaul. As a presidential candidate, Romney has since vowed to repeal the federal law.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/politics-elections/208827-romney-campaign-slams-santorum-on-healthcare>

Seniors Struggling Financially After Prescription Drug Program Changes  
Cara Matthews  
February 5, 2012  
The Ithaca Journal

Many seniors are having trouble paying for their medication a month after changes to the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program in New York. The EPIC Program is a free state benefit that helps low to moderate income New Yorkers cover out of pocket costs for Medicare Part D. Before the changes took effect January 1, seniors in the EPIC program paid anywhere from \$3 to \$20 for their prescriptions. Now, participants will not be subsidized until they reach the "doughnut hole" coverage gap, or \$2,930. That means that they must now pay 25% of the drug costs, which could amount to hundreds of dollars per month.

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20120205/NEWS01/202050331/Seniors-struggling-financially-after-prescription-drug-program-changes?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

## **Social Security**

Social Security Group Backs Critz  
Laura Olson  
February 2, 2012  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare has decided to endorse Democrat Mark Critz over Democrat Jason Altmire in the 12<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Race in Pennsylvania. The Committee chose Critz because he understands the importance of Social Security and Medicare in everyday life for seniors and their families. The Critz campaign touted the endorsement describing him as a champion for seniors' issues and against privatization and cuts to wither program.

<http://earlyreturns.sites.post-gazette.com/index.php/early-returns-20/53-post-gazette-staff/3982-social-security-group-backs-critz>

## **Politics**

Poll: Obama Over 50% vs. Mitt Romney

MJ Lee

February 6, 2012

Politico

Foe the first time since July, President Obama holds a clear lead over Mitt Romney in a hypothetical general election match-up. The Washington Post – ABC News poll shows that among all Americans, Obama leads Romney 52 to 43 percent while among registered voters, the lead is narrower, 51 to 45 percent. While Romney is seen as a better candidate to handle the economy and job creation, Obama is viewed as more of an overall champion for the middle class and a better international diplomat.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/72490.html>

## **Labor**

Unions Create TV Ad to Appeal to Young People

Richard Gonzales

February 6, 2012

NPR

The AFL-CIO has embarked on a new campaign that hopes to introduce the labor movement to younger demographics. Thanks to the Occupy movement and the international uprisings in Egypt and Libya respectively, the organization hopes to recruit some of that activism and enthusiasm among people here in the States, especially younger people. This comes after a Gallup poll shoes a 52% record low approval of unions among Americans.

<http://www.npr.org/2012/02/06/146206974/unions-create-tv-ad-to-appeal-to-young-people>