

Alliance Clips and Retiree News November 30, 2011

Alliance Mentions

"Unconscionable" to Cut Retiree Programs to Pay for Tax Cuts for Millionaires

ProgressOhio Blog

Dave Harding

November 22, 2011

The Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans released a statement following the failure of the Super Committee commenting on how their failure is a good thing for retirees. While the Super Committee deliberated the Ohio Alliance worked tirelessly on sending a message to Senator Portman, hands off our Social Security! The Ohio Alliance also released a report that detailed the importance of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to the Ohio economy. The Ohio Alliance has already turned its gaze toward the future, saying how they plan to educate and mobilize seniors during the 2012 elections.

<http://www.progressohio.org/blog/2011/11/ohio-retiree-leader-end-of-super-committee-good-news-for-seniors.html>

Alliance People

StarMetro revamp coming in January

Tallahassee Democrat

TaMaryn Waters

November 26, 2011

The StarMetro in Tallahassee has been making changes to improve its operations. Most people however feel that there has been little improvement. Richard Polangin, a government-affairs director for the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, said more shelters and more buses are needed to make the system better. "This is not taking appropriate consideration for the well being of the people who use the StarMetro system. We believe it should be a priority," Polangin said. With a limited budget those improvements will be hard to make, and commissioners say it could take up to a year and a half to implement the changes people are asking for.

<http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20111126/NEWS01/111260312/StarMetro-revamp-coming-January>

Medicare

Democrats to attack Republicans for pushing Medicare cuts

The Washington Post

Peter Wallsten
November 30, 2011

In the wake of the failed Super Committee Republicans are on the war path to cut Medicare spending. Democrats are launching a new attack this week against Republican cuts. Part of the new strategy is a round of automated calls that will go out to residents in over 30 Republican districts. The call will tell constituents how the Republicans forced a Super Committee failure by demanding taxes stay low for millionaires and instead cutting Medicare benefits. The call ends with the stark reminder of, "by rejecting a balanced approach, Republicans chose to protect the wealthiest one percent at the expense of seniors and the middle class." Another line of attack the Democrats are using is targeting supporters of the Ryan Budget Plan. In the Ryan Plan those who enter Medicare in 2022 will receive vouchers for private health insurance; polls show that 82 percent of Americans oppose a change to Medicare. Republicans plan to counter by attacking Obama's healthcare plan.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democrats-to-attack-republicans-for-pushing-medicare-cuts/2011/11/29/gIOAstATAO_story.html

Obama's Medicare nominee gets GOP leader's support
Associated Press
November 30, 2011

Obama has nominated Marilyn Tavenner to be the new head of Medicare and Medicaid. Her nomination is receiving support from House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, which is surprising given the current atmosphere between Democrats and Republicans. Rep. Cantor says he knew Tavenner when he was a state legislator in Virginia. "She was an individual with a wealth of knowledge about the complexities of the health care system, and she came forward with solutions that actually made sense," said Rep. Cantor. "I always found her to be extremely professional and understanding of the value of the private sector in health care." While Rep. Cantor cannot vote for Tavenner since he is not in the Senate, he would still like to express his support, and that support means a lot. Rep. Cantor is a very influential Republican; his opinion will likely have a great deal of impact on other GOP members.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iSRjiV9MIR-Y6Spab_HFYD7T31g?docId=e923c0396b0c4b3fabb92602c52c3cd8

Rick Perry gets U.S. voting age wrong in New Hampshire
The Washington Post
Rosalind S. Helderman
November 29, 2011

GOP candidate Rick Perry is having a hard time with staying on top of his gaffes. At a town hall held at New Hampshire's Saint Anselm's College Perry asked who in the audience was over 21 and would be supporting him come November 12 in his bid for the presidency. What Perry meant to ask of course was who will be over 18 and who would be supporting him on *November 6*. Perry's spokesperson after the event chalks it up to a slip of the tongue, saying Perry simply misspoke. Add this slip of the tongue to Perry's now infamous "oops moment" when he could not recall the name of the third agency he wanted to cut at a recent GOP debate, and you have got too many gaffes for a serious GOP contender. All of these little slip-ups are causing Republicans to lose faith in Perry and his ability to beat Obama in a head to head debate. http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/election-2012/post/rick-perry-gets-us-voting-age-wrong-in-new-hampshire/2011/11/29/gIQAIMOM9N_blog.html

Deficit Hawks See Opening
Roll Call
Meredith Shiner
November 30, 2011

There may be some hope in the aftermath of the failure of the Super Committee. The "gang of six" has continued to meet and discuss a possible solution for the deficit problem. Currently the "gang of six" is made up of Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Sens. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho). On Monday, those six were joined by Sens. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), according to sources. So far both the Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have not given the group a warm welcome. "What I've said to my caucus, and I'm saying it to you here, if someone has a proposal about reducing the deficit, the debt, here's my suggestion: Put it in bill form, in writing, not all these happy statements about what people think can be done," said Reid. If the "gang of six" does come up with a plan their goal it to have it in writing and scored by the CBO and on the floor by the end of January, a hefty order in the wake of Super Committee failure.

http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_66/Deficit-Hawks-See-Opening-210627-1.html?pos=hftxt

Labor

Democrat: Attacks on labor board coming from 'a right wing on steroids'
The Hill
Kevin Bogardus
November 30, 2011

Democrats vow to fight off Republican attacks on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Republicans have been especially critical of the NLRB this year for a number of its decisions

including the Boeing case as well as the act they are currently considering that will speed up union elections. The House is expected to vote Wednesday on a bill sponsored by Rep. John Kline (R-Minn.) to block the NLRB from voting on this piece of legislation. At an AFL-CIO forum Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) uses the attacks on the board to point out, “this is a right wing on steroids.”

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/196219-dem-attacks-on-labor-board-come-from-a-right-wing-on-steroids>

Massive British labor strikes close schools and clinics, slow transit

The Washington Post

Karla Adam

November 30, 2011

The biggest strike since 1979 is currently taking place in England. Over 2 million public sector workers including teachers, immigration officials, and hospital staff joined together to strike today, forcing at least half of Britain’s schools to close. The workers are protesting new austerity measures the government is using to take to control the country’s ballooning deficit and keep England from slipping into the massive recession engulfing the rest of Europe. Parts of the government’s austerity measures are to slash pensions, which is what brought most protestors out. Brigid Falconer, 50, a social worker said she was striking over “what kind of society we want to have. I’m scared we will become more like America, with extremes in inequality,” she said.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/massive-british-labor-strikes-close-schools-clinics-slow-transit/2011/11/30/gIQAXwZrCO_story.html?hpid=z2