

Alliance Press Clips for October 20, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Groups in Harrisburg protest proposed voter ID bill
Tom Barnes
Pittsburg Post-Gazette
October 19, 2011

The Pennsylvania Alliance of Retired Americans and two dozen other groups urged the state Senate today to defeat House Bill 934, which would require voters to produce photo identification every time they want to vote. The bill would "disenfranchise" 340,000 senior citizens, because they don't have a driver's license, the most common form of state-issued photo ID. Critics also said it would cost the state \$11 million to come up with alternate photo IDs for nondrivers, a cost the state can't afford at this time.

<http://www.postgazette.com/pg/11292/1183244-100.stm#ixzz1bKR5UZIy>

Protest Planned for Paul Ryan's Oak Creek Visit
Mark Schaaf
OakCreek Patch
October 19, 2011

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Alliance for Retired Americans and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) are planning to protest at U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan's town-hall meetings in Oak Creek and Muskego Thursday.

<http://oakcreek.patch.com/articles/protest-planned-for-paul-ryan-s-oak-creek-visit>

Alliance People

Approve I-1163 to protect our seniors
Robby Stern
Kitsap Sun
October 19, 2011

Increased training standards are needed to reform the poor conditions of long term care fatalities. Initiative 1163 requires home care workers, who provide the same type of care as nursing home care workers, but in more isolated environments, to receive a minimum of 75 hours of basic training and to pass a certification exam to provide care. At the moment someone who cares for in-home patients with conditions such as dementia and developmental disabilities receives less than 40 hours of training.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2011/oct/19/approve-i-1163-to-protect-our-seniors/#ixzz1bKZFSgWN>

Social Security bennies bump up
Nancy Marshall Genzer
American Public Media
October 19, 2011

Social Security gets its first adjustment since 2009. The average Social Security benefit will rise by \$516 to \$14,748. Is that a meaningful bump? For 77-year-old Bette Reed of Seattle, the extra cash is a godsend. Social Security is her sole source of income. Rising gas and food prices have hit older Americans on fixed incomes especially hard. David Rosnick is an economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research. He says the little bit extra seniors are going to get is just supposed to help them keep up.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/10/18/us-usa-health-regulation-idUKTRE79H60320111018>

Medicare

8 ways to watch for Medicare fraud
Donna Gehrke- White
The Sacramento Bee
October 19, 2011

After the Medicare scheme in South Florida that included a \$25 million kickback scheme, implicating 54 doctors, nurses, operators and recruiters, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released a few tips to protect you against Medicare fraud.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/10/19/3989009/8-ways-to-watch-for-medicare-fraud.html#ixzz1bKhlf46k>

HHS loosens Medicare red tape as part of Obama plan
Alina Selyukh
Reuters
October 18, 2011

Health officials on Tuesday proposed loosening some Medicare rules in what they say could lead to \$1.1 billion in first-year savings as part of President Barack Obama's effort to cut federal red tape. Most of the savings would come through changes to the conditions of participation in the government health program for the elderly and disabled.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/10/18/us-usa-health-regulation-idUKTRE79H60320111018>

Politics

Romney Tweaks The Ryan Budget: Cut Social Security Benefits, Privatize Medicare (VIDEO)

Brian Beutler

TPM

October 19, 2011

In an article with the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, Romney proposed making Social Security solvent in the long term through a mix of benefit cuts, taking the option of imposing payroll taxes on higher-income earners off the table completely. Romney's plan for Medicare would provide future seniors vouchers to buy private insurance, while at the same time preserving traditional Medicare as an option.

<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2011/10/romney-tweaks-the-ryan-budget-cut-social-security-benefits-privatize-medicare.php>

Tea Party Group Finds Tepid Support Among Conservatives For Medicare And Social Security Overhaul

Jon Ward

Huffington Post

October 19, 2011

FreedomWorks, a Washington-based nonprofit, said Wednesday that the majority of more than 40,000 voters who have filled out an eight- to ten-question survey has indicated they are "more cautious" about changes to Medicare and Social Security than they are regarding other federal programs or agencies. The feedback suggests that many Tea Party voters have yet to come to grips with the implications of their own calls for reducing the size of government.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/19/tea-party-medicare-social-security-overhaul_n_1020095.html