

Alliance Press Clips for October 6, 2011

Health Care

Community health centers hit hard by Washington deficit cuts

Phil Galewitz

The Washington Post

Rather than handing out \$250 million to establish new patient-care sites to serve more than 2 million additional people, as originally expected, the Obama Administration gave \$29 million to 67 nonprofit organizations that will serve an additional 286,000 patients. Health center officials are concerned the cuts in expansion funding could happen again as Congress moves to hold down federal spending and lower the federal deficit.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/community-health-centers-hit-hard-by-washington-deficit-cuts/2011/09/23/gIQA9I0DPL_story.html

Denny Rehberg: Health law cuts a 'super' idea

Jennifer Haberkorn

Politico

September 6, 2011

Rep Danny Rehberg of Montana, chairman of the House Appropriations Labor-Health and Human Services subcommittee, is proposing that the supercommittee can reach its entire \$1.2 trillion savings goal with two simple cuts from the health care reform law: cutting the law's Medicaid expansion and subsidies to help consumers buy insurance.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1011/65298.html#ixzz1a0qvwDNR>

Study: Worst hospitals treat largershare of poor

Associated Press

USA Today

The nation's worst hospitals treat twice the proportion of elderly black patients and poor patients than the best hospitals, and their patients are more likely to die of heart attacks and pneumonia, new research shows. Medicare chief Don Berwick called the study "valuable, but not completely new." He said the federal government is working to help all hospitals improve.

<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/health/healthcare/story/2011-10-05/Study-Worst-hospitals-treat-larger-share-of-poor/50670780/1>

Medicare

Sanders chides hospitals for pushing for increase in age of Medicare eligibility

Tracy Jan

Boston Globe

October 5, 2011

Senator Bernard Sanders of Vermont sent a letter to the American Hospital Association expressing his disapproval of the organization for advocating that Congress raise the age of Medicare eligibility, among other cuts to beneficiaries.

<http://www.boston.com/Boston/politicalintelligence/2011/10/sanders-chides-hospitals-for-pushing-for-increase-age-medicare-eligibility/cpHH6Y5GZKJrLoowjsUWTI/index.html>

Politics

Veterans of Afghan war battle high jobless rate

Des Moines Register

Associated Press

October 4, 2011

Bureau of Labor Statistics data show National Guard or Reserve members who have served since September 2001 had an unemployment rate of 14 percent nationally in July 2010. That compares with 12.1 percent for veterans who were not Guard or Reserve members and 9.5 percent for the general population.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20111005/NEWS/310050046/Veterans-Afghan-war-battle-high-jobless-rate>

Palin Says She's Not Running

Michael D. Shear

New York Times

October 5, 2011

Ms. Palin, the former governor of Alaska, ended her inscrutable cat-and-mouse game with the political establishment on Wednesday afternoon by saying that she would not join the field of Republican candidates seeking her party's nomination, but would still work to oust President Obama. In an e-mail sent to her supporters, Ms. Palin said she had decided not to run out of respect for her family and the impact that a campaign would have on them.

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/05/palin-says-shes-not-running/>

Poll: Obama seen as smartest, most honest candidate
Adelle M. Banks
Washington Post
October 5, 2011

The Barna Group polled 1,010 adults on their perceptions of the candidates' honesty, intelligence, philosophy of government and leadership ability. The poll found that Americans consider President Obama to be the smartest and most honest presidential candidate against former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, but religious groups differ on their views of the candidates' attributes.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/poll-obama-seen-as-smartest-most-honest-candidate/2011/10/05/gIQA9e5EOL_story.html

Unions

Seeking Energy, Unions Join Protest Against Wall Street
Steven Greenhouse and Cara Buckley
NY Times
October 5, 2011

Many union leaders have decided to embrace Occupy Wall Street. On Wednesday members of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s executive council had a conference call in which they expressed unanimous support for the protest. One A.F.L.-C.I.O. official said leaders had heard from local union members wondering why organized labor was absent. Union leaders maintain that despite difference the two organizations can help each other— the weakened labor movement can tap into Occupy Wall Street's vitality, while the protesters can benefit from labor's money, its millions of members and its stature.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/06/nyregion/major-unions-join-occupy-wall-street-protest.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper