

Alliance Press Clips for October 5, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Latino Retirees: The Key to a Brighter Tomorrow

SEIU Blog

Yadhira Alvarez

September 30, 2011

Latino voters make up more than half of the population growth within the United States. It is no wonder that they are one of the most sought after groups by candidates for 2012. According to the Pew Research Center that 47.8% of the Latino eligible voters, 65 and older, voted in the 2010 election. Of the 65 and older Latinos, 90% depend on Medicare for health insurance. A great number of them depend on Social Security as well. "According to the Alliance for Retired Americans, nearly half of seniors 65 and older would live in poverty without Social Security." The retired Latino community will be a force to be reckoned with come election season 2012.

<http://www.seiu.org/2011/09/latino-retirees-the-key-to-a-brighter-tomorrow.php>

Medicare

Sen. Sanders on raising Medicare age to cut deficit: 'Ain't gonna happen'

The Hill

Mike Lillis

October 4, 2011

Senator Bernie Sanders, an Independent from Vermont made his stance on Medicare clear at the Take Back the American Dream conference. "Forty-five thousand people are dying in America this year because they don't have access to healthcare, and we'll be damned if we're going to allow more people to die by raising the eligibility age from 65 to 67," he said. He also was very clear on his stance on Social Security, "in the middle of the worst recession since the Great Depression, you know what you don't do? You don't cut Social Security – that's what you don't do. And anybody who tells you that Social Security is part of the deficit problem is lying to you." Congressman Barney Frank, a democrat from Massachusetts was on the same page as Senator Sanders, he strongly advocates cuts in defense spending instead of cuts to social programs. "Social Security and Medicare are two of the great accomplishments of the American society of the last century. The biggest single chunk of deficit reduction must come from scaling back our enormous military expenditures from where they now are to where our legitimate needs are," said Frank. It is congressmen like these that are essential to making sure seniors' voices are heard in the debt-reduction talks.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/185535-sen-sanders-on-raising-medicare-age-aint-gonna-happen?page=1#comments>

Investigation finds drug abusers exploiting Medicare benefit

USA Today

October 4, 2011

A recent hearing held by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee looked into prescription drug abuses. In a recent investigation it was uncovered that over 170,000 Medicare beneficiaries obtain prescriptions from over five prescribers. That may sound like a lot, but in reality it is less than 2% of Medicare beneficiaries. The drugs that are being obtained are controlled substances that have a good street value, such as oxycodone. These frauds engage in what is known as 'doctor shopping,' which is visiting a number of different prescribers to get multiple prescriptions. Sens. Tom Carper, D-Del., and Scott Brown, R-Mass., are hoping to cut down on this by creating new regulations for Medicare.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-10-04/medicare-drug-abuse/50652460/1>

Politics

Democrat Wins West Virginia Governor's Race

The New York Times

Sabina Tavernise

October 4, 2011

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin narrowly won the special election in West Virginia to keep his governor's seat. The case in West Virginia is a bit peculiar; this special election was ordered by the West Virginia Supreme Court. Joe Manchin III left the governor's seat when he won the Senate race. Tomblin stepped in as governor, being the president of the West Virginia Senate. It was not an easy race, with Tomblin holding only a 3 point lead over his opponent Bill Maloney. West Virginia is known for electing blue state officials, but going red in presidential elections. Tomblin will hold office for just 14 months before he faces another election in 2012.

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/west-virginians-vote-for-governor/?hp>

Labor

Union chief implores liberal activists to get Obama's back on jobs proposal

The Hill

Kevin Bogardus

October 4, 2011

President of the AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka is pushing President Obama's Jobs Bill hard. At the Take Back the American Dream conference hosted by Camping for America's Future, Trumka

said “our first step is to support President Obama’s American Jobs Act and his demand that the millionaires and billionaires who have profited so handsomely pay their fair share of taxes to create jobs.” Obama’s Job’s Bill has revitalized the union support of the Obama Administration, which has been rocky especially with the recent trade bills the Administration has sponsored. None the less, it is clear that the unions are back on the path of supporting Obama which will be crucial to his 2012 campaign as he attempts to reconnect with the working people.

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/185573-union-chief-implores-liberal-activists-to-get-obamas-back-on-jobs?page=1#comments>

Unions endorse, will join Occupy Wall Street protests

CNN.com

Jason Kessler and Michael Martinez

October 5, 2011

The protest known as “Occupy Wall Street” has gained serious ground in the past few weeks. Started by dissatisfied twenty-year-olds the movement has become an outlet for all frustrated Americans, people frustrated with the war, the environment, and mostly the economy. "These young people are speaking for the vast majority of Americans who are frustrated by the bankers and brokers who have profited on the backs of hard-working people, while we battle it out day after day, month after month, the millionaires and billionaires on Wall Street sit by -- untouched -- and lecture us on the level of our sacrifice," says Larry Hanley, international president of the Amalgamated Transit Union. “Occupy Wall Street” is spreading to a number of different cities and unions plan on getting involved, including the United Federation of Teachers in New York, and the Massachusetts Nurses Association in Boston.

http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/05/politics/occupy-wall-street/index.html?hpt=hp_t1