

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: January 24, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Legislative Roundup, January 24, 2012: Looking Ahead
The New Mexican

Several organizations including the New Mexico Alliance for Retired Americans are sponsoring a Medicaid Lobby Day at the state Capitol. The coalition looks to educate policymakers about the importance Medicaid plays in helping the working poor overcome poverty and ensuring that their children have access to better health care.

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Legislative-roundup--Jan--24--2012>

Healthcare

GOP Candidates Are Wrong: Obamacare Is Helping People
AFL-CIO
January 23, 2012
Politico

Despite Republican “pyrotechnics” that seek to discredit President Obama’s health care reform, here are some facts and figures proving how positively impactful Obamacare has been since its passage in 2010.

<http://www.opposingviews.com/i/money/affordable-care-act-helps-real-people-real-ways>

Santorum Warns Florida Seniors That Obama Healthcare Law Will Force Doctors to Leave Medicare
January 23, 2012
The Washington Post

GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum says that Obama’s health care reform law is why seniors will have to face longer wait times and lack of participation from health care providers due to the lower reimbursement rates. However, his claims are refuted by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, a nonpartisan advisory group. According to the group, many Medicare beneficiaries ages 50 to 64 report having similar or better access than private insurance holders in the same age range.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/santorum-warns-florida-seniors-that-obama-health-care-law-will-force-doctors-to-leave-medicare/2012/01/23/gIQAzX4VLQ_story.html?tid=pm_national_pop

Did Gingrich Avoid Paying Taxes?

Suzy Krimm

January 23, 2012

The Washington Post

Tax experts investigating GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich's taxes have reason to accuse the congressman of not paying his Medicare taxes. According to a partner at a Chicago law firm, the money that he and his wife reported as income is not consistent with the amount he paid in taxes for his businesses, Gingrich Holdings Inc. and Gingrich's productions.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/did-gingrich-avoid-paying-medicare-taxes/2012/01/23/gIOAdqdXLQ_blog.html

Medicare Spending Growth

Joe Courtney

January 12, 2012

New York Times

The columnist Joe Courtney suggests that contrary to popular belief, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) actually helps to rein in Medicare costs. The most significant change of the health care reform, which equalizes payments to Medicare Advantage Plans, is on track to save nearly \$135 billion through the next decade.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/24/opinion/medicare-spending-growth.html?_r=1

States Waiting On SCOTUS Could Hamper Exchanges

Brett Norman and Jason Millman

January 24, 2012

Politico

Many states have already or plan to take a "wait-and-see" stance toward President Obama's health care reform law. Over the next couple of weeks, states will decide whether or not to a state based exchange or allow for the federal government to take partial control. Many red states especially hope to secure enough political support to move in either direction. Since most of the Republican presidential candidates oppose the ACA, moving forward connotes approval, making explanation and enforcement difficult on Republican officials.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0112/71846.html>

Social Security

Benefits for the Elderly
JoAnne DeSimone Reynolds
January 23, 2012
New York Times

A letter to the editor stressing the importance of Social Security and Medicare as entitlement programs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/24/opinion/benefits-for-the-elderly.html>

Social Security: More Paper Statements Ahead
Matt Sedensky
January 24, 2012
The Christian Science Monitor

Starting in February, the Social Security Administration will resume sending paper statements to persons age 60 and older who are not yet receiving benefits. All of the information concerning personal Social Security information will be available on a new website set to debut in February as well. The new mailing guidelines are expected to be announced today by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), chairman of the Special Senate Committee on Aging and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), a member of the same committee.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/Latest-News-Wires/2012/0124/Social-Security-more-paper-statements-ahead>

Politics

Mike Turzai Won't Run for Congress in Pennsylvania After All
Shira Toeplitz
January 24, 2012
Roll Call

Pennsylvania GOP House Majority Leader Mike Turzai announced Tuesday that he will not run in the 12th district, just a few days after saying he would. Attorney Keith Rothfus remains the only GOP candidate who looks to face the winner of the April primary between Democratic Reps. Mark Critz and Jason Altmire.

<http://www.rollcall.com/news/Mike-Turzai-Congress-12th-wont-run-2012-Pa-211736-1.html?pos=opolh>

Labor

Indiana Labor Unions Use Daniel's Words against Him

Maureen Hayden

January 23, 2012

The Herald Bulletin

Labor groups in Indiana are prepared to go after Republican Governor Mitch Daniels after he broke a promise related to his right to work views. In a 2006 speech to approximately 500 Teamster union representatives, Daniels voiced his opposition to the very right to work laws that he now supports. Various union groups including the Teamsters feel betrayed, asserting that Daniels deceived them in order to receive their votes. Tonight, after President Obama's State of the Union address, Daniels will deliver the official Republican response speech upon which a new 30-second ad will air showing Daniels contradicting himself. The ad, paid for by several labor unions, will air locally and national on CNN and MSNBC. Additionally, labor unions are prepared to utilize the popularity of the Super Bowl to increase awareness and opposition to the right to work momentum if necessary.

<http://heraldbulletin.com/business/x431307598/Indiana-labor-unions-use-Daniels-words-against-him>

State House Panel Hears Testimony on Labor Bills

Paul Egan

January 24, 2012

Detroit Free Press

A group of bills are currently being heard among policymakers in Michigan that can greatly shift power out of the hands of the labor unions and into the hands of management. Some of the proposals include the allowance of public and private employers to require annual written consent of union membership deductions from paychecks and heavier fines for illegal public sector strikes and lockouts by employees.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120124/NEWS15/120124021/State-House-panel-hears-testimony-labor-bills?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>