

Alliance Clips and Retiree News October 28, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Arizona retirees get look at spending cut impact

Fox 11 Tucson, AZ

October 27, 2011

[\[VIDEO\]](#)



Southern Arizona senior citizens are getting an idea of what may happen if Congress cuts Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid. On Wednesday night the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans unveiled a report on the potential impact. "We're trying to organize and educate the senior citizens so that we can protect this programs, this programs are very important to this nation if we ever lose this programs on my opinion America will be a third world country," said Tino Torres from the Alliance For Retired Americans.

Group Calls On Congressman Hensarling to Preserve Senior Benefits

KERA Public Radio, Dallas

October 27, 2011

Members of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans held a rally outside of Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Dallas office. Members are worried Hensarling will advocate cutting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Group President Gene Lantz says cutting those programs to reduce the deficit will hurt the most vulnerable Americans. "The main point is that it's our money. It's not part of the national debt; it never was part of the national debt. We never borrowed money for anybody we didn't float any bonds, we paid that money in." Representative Hensarling released a statement today that said: "The rate of growth for these programs is unsustainable, but we do not have to cut one penny from these programs to save them." The deficit committee is expected to deliver proposals before a full congress on November 23rd.

http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kera/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=186840

Seniors Put Hensarling On Notice

Courtney Collins

KERA News,

October 27, 2011

Two dozen members of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans were at Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Dallas office to speak out against cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Hensarling is co-chair of the congressional committee proposing how to cut the deficit. The seniors who showed up at his office are worried he'll support program cuts.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/keranews/newsmain/article/0/0/1868505/North.Texas/Seniors.Put.Hensarling.On.Notice>.

Alliance Members

My View: Future of Orange County's Valley View nursing home deserves thorough, fair hearing

Dennis Tracey

Times Herald-Record

October 27, 2011

Orange County Executive Ed Diana has proposed defunding and privatizing Orange County's public nursing home, Valley View, which provides care to more than 300 Orange County seniors. To sell the public on his proposal, he has adopted the same overheated rhetoric used by other conservatives seeking to privatize public services.

When President George W. Bush was proposing the privatization of Social Security, he warned "the system ... is headed toward bankruptcy." More recently, in support of his proposal to privatize Medicare, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) claimed, "The economic day of reckoning is right around the corner." Today, Diana says, "We cannot continue to pay the salary structure. I'm very compassionate for the residents and the workers, but I don't see any other way to close a gap of about \$20 million."

These claims of fiscal collapse are used by the privateers to create a sense of crisis and buffalo skeptical voters and legislators into accepting signing away our safety net in the hopes of saving our credit. This rhetoric is designed to create a stampede, to prevent careful consideration of the consequences of privatization and the alternatives.

In every case, the privateers cry poverty and demand cuts to the safety net, but continue to push their expensive pet projects. Bush had cut taxes for millionaires and launched an unnecessary war in Iraq. Ryan wants to further cut taxes for millionaires, and Diana wants to build a new \$100 million government center.

Privatization may save money, but these costs come at a price. For local governments faced with tight budgets, privatization's promise of reduced costs may sound tempting, but officials, and the voters who elect them, should realize that any cost savings may come at the price of the welfare of some of our society's most vulnerable citizens.

Pennsylvania has privatized many nursing homes. It was found that privatization resulted in staffing cuts. Those workers who survived the cuts not only had to pick up the workload of the reduced labor force, but also found shortages of medical and patient care supplies. Privatization simply reduced the quality of care to increase the profit margins for the privateers.

Members of the Legislature, including Democrat Christopher W. Eachus and Republican Mike Anagnostakis, have both proposed alternatives to the county executive's plan. The county executive has essentially dismissed their suggestions out of hand and claims that the matter is settled. This is wrong.

The county executive must stop hyping the budget problems, stop posing as a fearless fiscal crusader and allow for genuine deliberation.

With so much on the line for Orange County's seniors, alternatives to privatization deserve a full, fair and thorough hearing. The public and the Legislature should fully consider all available options undisturbed by the county executive's histrionics.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111027/OPINION/110270339/-1/SITEMAP>

Medicare

Medicare premiums to rise less than expected: How much?

Ryan Jaslow

CBS News

October 28, 2011

Seniors expecting big Medicare hikes can breathe a sigh of relief: Premiums will rise by only \$3.50 at most. "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare is providing better benefits at lower cost," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. She reassured seniors that they have nothing to fear from the health care law, and said called keeping premiums in check "pretty remarkable." The 2012 Part B premium for outpatient care will be \$99.90 per month - about \$7 less than projected as recently as May. The extra cash that most seniors will pay works out to about 10 percent of the average Social Security cost-of-living increase that's coming their way.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20126991-10391704/medicare-premiums-to-rise-less-than-expected-how-much/

Social Security

Florida: It's Social Security, Stupid

Bloomberg Businessweek

October 27, 2011

Mart Klein & Miriam Migliazzi

Bloomberg National Poll in October found majorities of more than 80 percent against reducing Social Security or Medicare benefits—reining in both programs is part of the current political debate. How it plays out in Florida, the largest swing state and home to the nation's highest concentration of seniors, could help decide who wins the White House next year. More than 2.7 million Florida residents 65 or older received Social Security benefits in December 2010, the most in any state except California. An additional 3.3 million received Medicare benefits. Those retirees do more than golf and shop: They vote.

<http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/florida-its-social-security-stupid-10272011.html>

More rely on Social Security

Emily Brandon

U.S. News & World Report

October 27, 2011

Social Security is the most significant source of income for Americans age 65 and older, and its importance has continued to grow, according to a recent Social Security Administration report. Social Security made up 38% of the total income of people age 65 and older in 2009 -- up from 30% in 1962 -- and is the largest source of retirement income. The second-largest share of retirement income is earnings from work (29%), a proportion that has remained consistent since 1962.

<http://money.msn.com/retirement-investment/more-rely-on-social-security-usnews.aspx?gt1=33041>

Healthcare

House votes to trim some Medicaid, other subsidies under Obama's health care overhaul

Associated Press

The Washington Post

October 27, 2011

The House voted 262-157 to include Social Security and railroad retirement benefits in the formula that determines whether people qualify for Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office says that would knock 500,000 to 1 million people off coverage by the federal insurance program for the poor — though some would qualify to buy coverage under new insurance exchanges. The

Senate hasn't voted yet on the health measure.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/house-votes-to-trim-some-medicaid-other-subsidies-under-obamas-health-care-overhaul/2011/10/27/gIQAZb0GMM_story.html

Politics

Boehner rejects Democrats' \$3 trillion deficit reduction proposal to 'supercommittee'

Paul Kane and Rosalind S. Helderman

The Washington Post

October 27, 2011

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) on Thursday rejected a Democratic offer to slash \$3 trillion from future debts because it contained significant tax increases. While GOP negotiators offered a slimmer package of savings with virtually no tax hikes, Boehner said the Democratic request for \$1.3 trillion in new tax revenue was a non-starter and gave his most pessimistic outlook to date that the so-called "supercommittee" would achieve its deficit target by its Thanksgiving deadline. "I don't think it's a reasonable number," the speaker said of the tax proposal, suggesting it was time "to get serious" in order to avoid an automatic trigger of \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts if the panel does not reach an accord."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/boehner-rejects-democratic-3-trillion-deficit-reduction-proposal-to-supercommittee/2011/10/27/gIQABPr2MM_story.html