

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 16, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Seniors Learn Twists, Turns of Health Reform Law
Jon Swedien
February 16, 2012
The Leader Telegram

Seniors in Wisconsin are learning a great deal about the health care reform law from forums being held across the state. The Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans and Know Your Care, a non-profit education group, are spearheading efforts to educate seniors about all of the new changes in the health care reform law and when they took or will take effect. Their most recent stop was in Eau Claire on Wednesday.

http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front_page/article_108ba892-febe-5f66-bb39-b36178bcda92.html

Alliance for Retired Americans in Ohio: Voter Rights and Voter Suppression in Ohio: The Case to Repeal HB 194
Dave Harding
February 15, 2012
Progress Ohio Blog

In 2011, HB 194 was passed in the Ohio General Assembly, placing a plethora of restrictions that greatly disadvantage marginalized groups, especially seniors. The Ohio ARA joined forces with the Fair Elections Ohio coalition and are rallying seniors and other supporters to petition for these changes to be repealed on the November 2012 ballot. One of the affected changes is to reduce absentee voting-by-mail from 5 weeks to 3 weeks, and in-person absentee voting can only last for 2 weeks. The Ohio ARA and the Fair Election Ohio coalition will be urging a “NO” vote come election time.

<http://www.progressohio.org/blog/2012/02/alliance-for-retired-americans-in-ohio-voter-rights-and-voter-suppression-in-ohio---the-case-to-repe.html>

Independent Life Harder for Elderly
Nancy McLaughlin
February 15, 2012
News and Record

North Carolina is one of the first states to assess recent numbers for basic living expenses for seniors living in the state. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index, developed by the

nonprofit Wider Opportunities for Women along with the University of Massachusetts, has been used to officially assess all 100 North Carolina counties and determine how much income is necessary for seniors to live independently. The statewide average is a little under \$21,000. North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans member Heather McLaughlin says that “one in three seniors live on Social Security alone, and that talk about getting rid of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid should not even be an issue.”

http://www.retiredamericans.org/system/storage/24/f6/e/1365/NC_Article.pdf

Health Care

New GOP Medicare Plan Features Accelerated Transition to Private Insurance for Seniors

Associated Press

February 16, 2012

Fox News

Sens. Tom Coburn (R-OK.) and Richard Burr (R-NC) are preparing a bill that will contain an accelerated transition to private insurance for seniors, a gradual raise in the eligibility age, and increases in premiums for upper and middle class retirees. The plan, which is supposed to be announced today, is not expected to advance through the Senate; rather, the main goal of the Republicans is to spark dialogue that will address short-term goals for Medicare.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/02/16/new-gop-medicare-plan-features-accelerated-transition-to-private-insurance-for/>

Affordable Care Act Extended Free Preventative Services to 54 Million Americans with Private Health Insurance in 2011

February 15, 2012

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

A press release from the Department of HHS states that 54 million Americans took advantage of at least one new free preventative service over the past year. Furthermore, an additional 32.4 million seniors received a new, free preventative benefit as well, bringing the total of Americans positively affected by the new health care law to 86 million. The full report can be found in the accompanying article.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120215a.html>

Politics

Rasmussen: Santorum Leads Ohio Primary By 18

Kyle Leighton

February 16, 2012
TPM

A recent Rasmussen poll shows Santorum surging in Ohio ahead of the March 6 primary on Super Tuesday. Fresh with momentum from his three-primary sweep in Missouri, Minnesota, and Colorado, Santorum also leads Mitt Romney in Michigan slightly. As conservatives look for someone that could defeat Romney for the nomination and potentially President Obama in the November 2012 elections, Santorum has gained greater support nationally among his party with a 12 point lead over Romney.

<http://livewire.talkingpointsmemo.com/entries/rasmussen-santorum-leads-ohio-gop-primary-by-18>

Ohio's GOP Primary – A few Visits, Some Commercials and a Lot of Do-It-Yourself
Steve Brown
February 15, 2012
Fox News Blog

Despite Ohio's history as a critical battleground state, the GOP presidential candidates aren't expending as much energy into the state as much as some would think. Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich have both made a visit or two while Ron Paul has not visited yet, and Rick Santorum plans to visit at the end of this week. At the moment, many sources are showing that Santorum has the momentum going in to the Super Tuesday primary set for March 6.

<http://politics.blogs.foxnews.com/2012/02/15/ohios-gop-primary-few-visits-some-commercials-and-lot-do-it-yourself>

Labor

Mitt Romney Returns to Native Michigan, Blasts Unions, Obama
Kathleen Gray
February 15, 2012
Detroit Free Press

Mitt Romney campaigned in Michigan on Wednesday spreading his anti-union messages to supporters in Kentwood. "I've taken on union bosses before and I'm happy to take them on again. I sure won't give into UAW," he told the crowd. He plans to support right to work laws and also open the floodgates for oil drilling in Alaska as well as within the scope of the Keystone XL Pipeline proposal.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120215/NEWS15/120215060/Mitt-Romney-returns-to-his-native-state-blasts-unions-Obama>

Mitt Romney v. Michigan GOPers on Labor
Reid J. Epstein
February 16, 2012
Politico

Republican Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan endorsed Mitt Romney for his presidential candidacy race on Thursday just ahead of the Feb. 28th primary in the state. However, one fundamental difference between the two GOPers lies over labor. Romney is pro right-to-work; Snyder is anti right-to-work, especially in the union heavy state that fostered the modern American labor movement. Additionally, Romney did not support the auto bailout that deeply affected his home state of Michigan, penning an op-ed article in the *New York Times* titled “Let Detroit Go Bankrupt”.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/72983.html>