

Celebrate Our Remarkably Successful Medicare on It's 46th Birthday

**Profit-Driven Health Care is the Problem —
Improved Medicare For All is the Solution!**

No Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security

Today, July 30, Medicare celebrates its 46th Birthday. Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid, the “crown jewels” of our national social insurance system, are under attack by politicians in Washington, DC.



Manufactured “Debt Crisis”

Politicians and the media, at the behest of Wall Street privatizers, are blaming “the aging population” so they can create panic about the debt. Their goal is to slash Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, transferring billions to Wall Street.

Real Cause of the Escalating Debt

- Iraq and Afghanistan wars contribute \$1-3 trillion to the debt
- Skyrocketing health care costs are going up 5-8% per year due to private health insurance corporations’ unconscionable profiteering
- Highly profitable U.S. corporations pay 0 in federal income taxes; Bush/Obama tax cuts allow billionaires to pay a lower tax rate than teachers, nurses and firefighters

Proposed Social Security Cuts

Lowering the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for Social Security will be devastating. A 75-year-old retiree’s benefits would be cut by \$560 per year, and an 85-year-old would have an annual cut of \$984.

Social Security Solution

It does not add a penny to the deficit and will be solvent for the next 37 years. To solve stability after 37 years, the cap must be raised so that Social Security payroll tax is applied to all income instead of just the first \$106,000. The wealthy would then pay their fair share and Social Security would be fully funded until 2080.

Proposed Medicare Cuts

Pres. Obama has proposed to raise Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67. This would force 65-67 year olds to buy high cost private insurance and stay in the workforce. It would have disproportionate impact on people of color who have shorter life expectancies. It would mean a 12% cut in benefits, the largest since Medicare began.

Medicare Solution

Medicare should be improved and expanded to include everyone. Medicare For All would significantly reverse the U.S. economic crisis. Stabilize Medicare immediately by:

- increasing payroll tax by a small fraction of a percent
- negotiating drug prices with pharmaceutical companies and
- stopping the current practice of paying private Medicare plans more than traditional Medicare.

Proposed Medicaid Cuts

The White House is proposing a \$65 billion savings by the federal government spending less on Medicaid by dumping the rising costs on the states. The states then would rely on more cuts, making the vulnerable pay with their health, and in some cases, their lives.

Medicaid Solution

Medicaid is a critical safety net that must be defended and preserved until we have a Medicare For All system. Medicaid is not the cause of our rising health care costs but is just a part of our irrational, fragmented and failed market-based model of health care financing.

**Tell Congress—No Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid & Social Security
Support Medicare For All (HR 676 & 1200; S915)**

The solutions are not mysterious. Make corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes. Cut spending on wars. Expand Medicare to a Medicare For All health system. Then we would be a country that respects our people, especially the retired, who have labored for years to produce our common wealth.

Call the DC Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121

- Ask your House Rep to support H.R.1200 & H.R.676
- Ask your Senators to support S.915

Join Us for a Town Meeting on the Shredding of Our Social Safety Net

When:

Where:

Speakers

Physicians for a National Health Program—Western Washington • United for Single Payer
• Healthcare for All—WA • WA State Alliance for Retired Americans

For more information, contact:

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Give Medicare a Birthday Present — Improved Medicare for ALL!