



RI ARA

*"Fighting for the future of our members,
NOW, more than ever!!!!"*

Affiliated with the Rhode Island AFL-CIO

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Alliance for Retired Americans Ask for Your Support

STOP BIG PHARMA



Did you know that Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs? Did you know that since the creation of Medicare Part D, American taxpayers no longer pay the lowest government-negotiated prices for the drugs needed by low-income seniors and people with disabilities?

There is a common sense

solution to reduce these high drug costs and eliminate the excessive profits of big drug companies. Click here to tell Congress to support it!

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) have introduced the Medicare Drug Savings Act, S. 740 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 1588 in the U.S. House of Representatives, that would eliminate this special deal for brand-name drug manufacturers. This legislation would prevent the big drug companies from charging

the federal government higher drug prices for low-income Medicare beneficiaries than they charge for Medicaid. The Medicare Drug Savings Act would save the federal government more than \$141.2 billion over 10 years, money that helps all Medicare beneficiaries.

Please click here to ask your Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor this critical legislation.

Currently, the federal government negotiates lower prices both for veterans and Medicaid

beneficiaries. However, when low-income Medicaid beneficiaries were transferred to the Medicare program, price-gouging drug companies received a huge windfall, because they stopped offering the government the lowest, discounted rate.

Click here to ask your Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor the Medicare Drug Savings Act.

[Link To Your Senator & Representative](#)

Fairness, or Hypocrisy?

While some in Congress continues to make an effort to cut Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid, big corporations pour **BILLIONS** of tax dollars overseas. This chart alone of nine American corporations accounts for **\$512 BILLION** dollars of tax shelters.

Cuts like the Chained CPI to lower Social Security cost of living adjustments by changing the statistical formula that the government uses to calculate the rate of inflation. Turning Medicare into a **VOUCHER** program controlled by **WALL STREET & the Pharmaceutical Industry** along with lower reimbursements to states for Medicaid, hurt the very segment of the American population that can least afford them.

Social Security is not a handout and does not contribute to the deficit. It is an earned benefit that retirees paid into for their entire working life.

Seniors deserve a decent standard of living, and we deserve the benefits that we paid for. Just as importantly, our children and grandchildren deserve the same benefits when it comes time for them to retire.

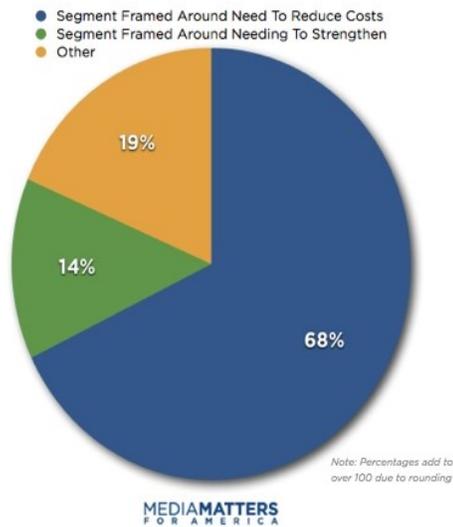
Let's go after **DEFICIT** reduction by going after the corporations that give **BILLIONS** of tax dollars to offshore accounts, not the hard working men & women that are struggling to make end meet.



MEDIA COVERAGE OF SOCIAL SECURITY IGNORES PROPOSALS THAT ASSIST BENEFICIARIES

Craig Harrington, Media Matters

Majority Of Segments On Social Security Framed Around Need To Reduce Costs



Cable and television news outlets have overwhelmingly presented Social Security as a program that should be cut, giving little to no airtime for proposals that would instead strengthen the program for beneficiaries. *Media Matters* research revealed significant media selection bias in the Social Security debate. Through the first six months of 2013, the three largest broadcast and cable news networks dedicated nearly 300 segments to discussions of Social Security. More than two-thirds of those segments framed the entire Social Security debate as a problem of long-term solvency and the national debt, which can only be solved through drastic cuts to beneficiaries

Media's heavy focus on "fixing" the solvency of the program belies the fact that Social Security is funded for at least the next two decades. On May 31, the Social Security Board of Trustees submitted its annual report to members of Congress and the White House, which concluded that Social Security "does not face an immediate crisis," as noted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' summary of the report. The report recommends that lawmakers prudently address long-term solvency concerns, but need not immediately adopt deep benefit cuts...[Read More](#)

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS TAKING A STAND

Barbara Easterling, North Dallas Gazette



Alliance members and activists like you, working with our partners and allies, did something pretty amazing. In over 50 cities, you formed a Human Chain against the Chained CPI, taking a stand to protect and strengthen Social Security.

Over 2,000 people participated in forming human chains against the chained CPI – from Portland, Maine to San Francisco, California. Members of the House and the Senate who are champions of protecting retirement security formed links in the chains in states like California, Indiana, New York, New Mexico, Nevada and Rhode Island. In addition to these dramatic actions, we generated thousands of phone calls and over 100,000 emails to members of Congress, asking them to oppose the chained CPI...[Read More](#)

OP-ED: NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO CUT BACK ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Bob Shimabukuro, The International Examiner

Because of the continuing trend of downsizing government at the expense of those who need help the most, many of our grandmothers, grandfathers, aunties, uncles, sons, daughters, grandchildren, families and communities are being shortchanged of their fair share of Social Security benefits. That's what I conclude when I look at a report of the effects of the consolidation of Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices into the newly formed Seattle Metropolitan Office in the Jackson Federal Building (JFB) last year...[Read More](#)



Charles Koch Launches Campaign to Eliminate the Minimum Wage

Just what we need, lower minimum wages for workers that can't live on the wages they now earn



On Tuesday, billionaire libertarian Charles Koch joined Republicans pushing to eliminate the nation's minimum wage he implied was the ultimate secret to lift Americans out of poverty as well as the major obstacle to economic growth. In fact, Koch said "*we need to analyze all these government subsidies, all these things that are creating a culture of dependency, and we've got to clear out what reduces the mobility of labor.*"...[Read More](#)

MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES REACH \$5 BILLION IN DRUG SAVINGS

Kelly Kennedy, USA TODAY



Since passage of the health care overhaul two years ago, 5.8 million Medicare patients have saved \$5 billion from prescription drug discounts, and the government can now predict lower health care costs based on increased use of these cheaper drugs.

The savings are a continuation of the 2010 health care law's attempt to close the "doughnut hole" — or the prescription drug coverage expenses that kick in once Medicare coverage runs out. The Department of Health and Human Services plans to announce those savings Monday.

"The health care law is saving money for people with Medicare," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, before adding that open enrollment ends on Friday....[Read More](#)

MEDICARE'S PART B DRUG SPENDING NEEDS AN INTERVENTION

John S. Wilson, Forbes

Thanks to CMS's poor pricing practices (some Congressionally dictated, some self inflicted) and excessive drug patent protection, Medicare is stuck paying more for less. No amount of drugs could make that a financially healthy proposition for taxpayers or seniors, who, after all, pick up part of the tab....[Read More](#)



U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY ON RISE, BUT PROGRESS LAGS GLOBAL PEERS'

Patricia Sullivan, Washington Post



The "State of U.S. Health" study is the first comprehensive analysis of disease burden in the country in more than 15 years. It said chronic disabilities in 2010 including many caused by bad food choices, smoking, obesity, physical inactivity and alcohol abuse, account for a larger portion of health issues in the United States than in its economic peers around the world, according to a new study by a global collaboration of scientists. These accounted for nearly half of all life-shortening health issues....[Read More](#)

AGING AMERICA: HOME REPAIR FOR HEALTH? SIMPLE FIX-UPS MAY KEEP LOW-INCOME SENIORS INDEPENDENT

Lauran Neergaard, Times-Colonist/Associated Press

The environment in which you live can be as disabling as a disease, and too often, older Americans wind up in a nursing home not because they're super-sick but because they can't get through their days safely at home. Now a major research project will bring handymen, occupational therapists and nurses into the homes of 800 low-income seniors in Baltimore to test if some inexpensive fix-ups and strategies for daily living can keep them independent longer, and save millions in taxpayer dollars spent on nursing home care.

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