



November 28, 2016 E-Newsletter

JUST IN: Paul Ryan Announces Drastic Measures To Take Health Care From Elderly (DETAILS)



For years, Paul Ryan has talked about privatizing Medicare, but President Obama made such measures nearly impossible. However, with the Republican party gaining control of the White House and both houses of Congress, Ryan’s dream could become a reality.

Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price (R-Ga.) said that he expects Congress to **push** forward with a Medicare overhaul “within the first six to eight months” of President-elect Donald Trump’s administration.

A process known as reconciliation would be used to push the bill through the Senate. Reconciliation is a parliamentary procedure which allows major spending bills to pass the Senate with a simple majority vote meaning such a bill could not be blocked via a filibuster.

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Reconciliation can be a useful tool, but it’s important to keep in mind that it has never been used for something as major as an overhaul of Medicare and doing so could leave the bill open to challenges on the grounds that it was in violation of the rules the Senate set up to govern itself.

Reconciliation is especially risky in this regard since Ryan has said that he intends to tackle both the Affordable Care Act (better known as Obamacare) and Medicare in the same bill. In an interview with Fox News, Ryan argued that, due to the ACA, Medicare is going broke. However, that is simply **false**. In fact, the ACA has actually strengthened the retirement program

Assuming that such a bill does pass Congress, what would it entail? Well, Ryan has not released any details regarding the upcoming bill, but he has said it would be based on the **Better Way** plan released earlier this year

Ryan, like most in the GOP, is unwilling to risk the ire of senior voters so he makes it clear that the current system will **remain** in place for those who are currently enrolled or near the enrollment age.

Lastly, our plan proposes to put Medicare on a sustainable path to ensure it can care for future generations. If we act now, this can mean that traditional Medicare will continue for those currently on the program or near Medicare eligibility...’

Despite his reassurances, Ryan believes that the current model is not sustainable so he wants to phase it out and replace with a “fully competitive market-based model.”

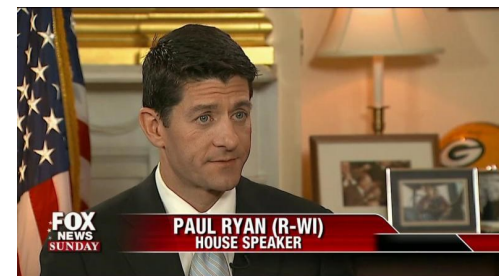
‘Beginning in 2024, Medicare beneficiaries would be given a choice of private plans competing alongside the traditional FFS Medicare program on a newly created Medicare Exchange. Our plan would ensure no disruptions in the Medicare FFS program for those in or

near retirement, while also allowing these grandfathered individuals the choice to enroll in the new premium support program. Medicare would provide a premium support payment either to pay for or offset the premium of the plan chosen by the beneficiary, depending on the plan’s cost.’

Under Ryan’s plan, once you reach retirement, instead of being automatically enrolled in Medicare, you will be given the option to buy insurance from a number of private plans. At first glance, this might not seem like a bad idea since the option to enroll in the traditional system will remain in place. However, it is very possible — and we would argue very likely — that this measure is only the first step towards a full privatization of the program.

Assuming the GOP can pass this bill, then Ryan’s goal of privatizing Medicare will be that much closer to reality. If they are successful, then it’s possible Social Security could be next.

You can watch Ryan’s with Fox News below:



Trump's Social Security point man called for privatization



Tom Leppert, the former mayor of Dallas who, it was announced Monday, is a member of Donald Trump's "landing team" for the Social Security Administration, once released a plan calling for the privatization of Social Security and Medicare.

The "landing teams" interact with federal agencies in helping to set up the government under President-elect Trump after he is sworn into office.

Leppert, who released the plan during a failed bid for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate in Texas in 2012, most recently served as the CEO of Kaplan,

Inc. Leppert supported Trump during the Republican primary and the president-elect thanked him at the time in a tweet.

But Leppert's past plans advocating privatizing both Social Security and Medicare make him a peculiar choice to run point on the Social Security Administration. Trump has unabashedly opposed any effort to change entitlements throughout the campaign, saying economic growth would keep entitlements from needing cuts. Emails to Leppert and Trump's spokespeople were not immediately returned.

Trump talked about entitlements earlier this year with a local Wisconsin radio station, saying, "Now, I want to get rid of

waste, fraud, and abuse. I want to do a lot of things to it that are going to make it much better, actually. But I'm not going to cut it, and I'm not going to raise ages, and I'm not going to do all of the things that they want to do. But they want to really cut it, and they want to cut it very substantially, the Republicans, and I'm not going to do that."

"We're gonna save your Social Security without making any cuts. Mark my words," Trump said in February.

But archived versions of Leppert's plans from his 2012 Senate run show how diametrically different his views are from Trump's on the issue... [Read More](#)

Lesson on Social Security and Why It Doesn't Contribute To Any Deficit

SOCIAL SECURITY

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT AN ENTITLEMENT, HANDOUT, OR GOVERNMENT GIFT.

IT'S AN EARNED BENEFIT THAT YOU PAY INTO THROUGHOUT YOUR WORKING LIFE. EVERY CENT IS YOURS.

SO NEXT TIME A POLITICIAN SAYS WE SHOULD "CUT SOCIAL SECURITY," REMEMBER THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO STEAL FROM YOUR SAVINGS!

SIGNATURE

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

Senator McConnell -

I see that you said recently that the two biggest threats to our national debt are Medicare and Social Security. You said that these programs must be cut in order to get a handle on our debt.

I assume that you've passed a high school civics class at some point. If so, you will recall that BOTH of these programs are funded 100% by FICA deductions from paychecks and thus have absolutely ZERO to do with the national debt.

So - follow me here - if you DON'T know this, then you are apparently VASTLY under-qualified to hold office.

However, if you DO know it, well then, you're just a liar - and you are perfectly qualified to be a U.S. Senator.

Which is it, Mitch?



Calm Dog

Medicare answers at your fingertips



Available only through the Medicare Rights Center, Medicare Interactive (MI) is a free and independent online reference tool thoughtfully designed to help older adults and people with disabilities navigate the complex world of health insurance.

Medicare Interactive - Medicare answers at your fingertips

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Home Safety Tips for Patients With Alzheimer's Disease



As a **geriatrician** caring for older adults with **Alzheimer's disease**, I always work with my patients and their caregivers to help ensure my patients live as independently as possible, with the fewest limitations and restrictions, while ensuring their safety.

Home safety is a frequent concern of caregivers. Whether they're deciding how safe it is for a loved one to stay home alone or if the patient should continue to cook or drive, safety is often at the top of the list of concerns. Many symptoms of Alzheimer's disease increase the risk of injury, including poor memory and judgment, difficulty following directions and episodes of agitation or irritability. Older adults with Alzheimer's disease may also have difficulties with gait and balance, placing them at higher risk for falls.

To help, it's important for caregivers to think about areas for potential injuries and try to adapt the home environment – where injuries most often occur – whenever possible to minimize risk. In general, experts state it's better to change the environment, than to try to change someone's behavior.

With Alzheimer's Awareness Month upon us, here's a summary of useful **home safety tips** to consider, as appropriate, when caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's.

Ensure all heating pipes and radiators

are covered.

Alzheimer's disease can lead to poor judgment, so it's important to appropriately cover all accessible radiators and pipes to avoid serious burns. Also, be certain the hot water heater is set so that the tap water is not hot enough to cause a scald burn.

[See: [5 Ways to Cope With Mild Cognitive Impairment.](#)]

Remove knobs from the stove, or install automatic shutoff appliances.

Caregivers should consider the dangers of cooking by older adults with Alzheimer's disease. If a person's judgment is impaired, allowing him or her to cook unsupervised may not be safe. Fortunately, automatic shutoff appliances can increase cooking safety for those with Alzheimer's and **dementia**. These devices come with a timer and motion sensors that may be safer or more convenient for your needs and those of your loved one. Also, meal delivery services may be available to prepare and deliver meals to the homes of older adults unable to prepare meals alone.

Store hazardous materials in a safe place.

Cleaning supplies, medications and other dangerous materials need to be locked away and out of reach of the individual you're caring for.

[See: [How Music Helps People With Alzheimer's Disease.](#)]

Install grab bars in the tub, and use a bath chair or stool in the tub or shower.

Bathrooms can be dangerous for

Alzheimer's patients. Older adults with some degree of incontinence, which is common in Alzheimer's patients, often have to rush to get to the bathroom, placing them at greater risk for falls. Use a raised toilet seat with handrails, or install grab bars beside the toilet. In addition, to help avoid bathroom injuries, every household should have a nonskid mat for the bathtub and shower.

Ensure staircases are safe, and make sure areas around the house are not cluttered.

Staircases should be well lit, equipped with handrails and, if necessary, blocked off when there isn't a caregiver in the house with the patient. In addition, make sure there are clear paths in all rooms and good lighting during the day and at night. This can help prevent falls.

Safety concerns will change as Alzheimer's disease progresses. The environment should be reviewed early and often, so the injuries in the home that can be prevented are prevented.

[See: [11 Things Seniors Should Look for in a Health Provider.](#)]

These tips will help your loved one live as independently as possible. Additionally, consider these valuable online resources: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **STEADI** (Stopping Elderly Accidents Deaths and Injuries); the **Alzheimer's Association**; and the **American Geriatrics Society**.

Dementia Rates Decline Sharply Among Senior Citizens

A new study finds that the prevalence of dementia has fallen sharply in recent years, most likely as a result of Americans' rising educational levels and better heart health, which are both closely related to brain health.

Dementia rates in people over age 65 fell from 11.6 percent in 2000 to 8.8 percent in 2012, a decline of 24 percent, according to a **study** of more than 21,000 people across the country published Monday in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

"It's definitely good news," said Dr.

Kenneth Langa, a professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan and a coauthor of the new study. "Even without a cure for Alzheimer's disease or a new medication, there are things that we can do socially and medically and behaviorally that can significantly reduce the risk."

The decline in dementia rates translates to about one million fewer Americans suffering from the condition, said John Haaga, director of behavioral and social research at the National Institute on

Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the new study.

Dementia is a general term for a loss of memory or other mental abilities that's severe enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer's disease, which is believed to be caused by a buildup of plaques and tangles in the brain, is the most common type of dementia. Vascular dementia is the second most common type of dementia and occurs after a stroke...**[Read More](#)**



Clinics Help Keep People With Serious Mental Illness Out Of ER



SAN ANTONIO—Yolanda Solar has battled a life-threatening disease for more

than three decades.

The disease nearly killed her last summer, and Solar, a 73-year-old grandmother, was rushed to the hospital by ambulance.

When Solar was discharged one week later, she received bad news: She would have to wait until March to see a doctor.

Waiting seven months for treatment would be unthinkable if Solar had cancer

or heart disease. But Solar suffers from severe depression, and waiting that long for help is typical — and potentially dangerous.

Although San Antonio has earned widespread praise for its success in keeping people with mental illness out of jail, patients here routinely wait months to see psychiatrists, who are in short supply across the country. The number of available psychiatrists who specialize in the care of the elderly or children is even smaller.

Without routine medical care, patients like Solar, who tried to kill herself in August with an overdose of pills, can

quickly deteriorate. Many return to the emergency room. Some don't survive.

But Solar was luckier than most.

Emergency room staff made an appointment for her at a transitional care clinic at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, which annually treats up to 1,500 patients with serious mental illness until they can find regular care. The clinic helps the mentally ill avoid winding up in the ER, where round-the-clock activity and confusion is ill-suited to the needs of patients who are already agitated, suicidal or psychotic....[Read More](#)

How to Pay for Nursing Home Costs

Medicare, Medicaid and other resources can help minimize the cost of long-term care.

Odds are high that someone in your family will need a **nursing home** sooner or later. More than two-thirds of people over age 65 will require some type of long-term care services during their lifetime, and over 45 percent of people will need a period of care in a nursing home, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The cost of that care can financially cripple a family. But there are steps you can take — whether a nursing home is needed now, next month or next decade — to minimize the strain.

Ideally, financial planning for long-term care should occur long before the need arises, says **Wendy Boglioli**, a spokesperson for insurer Genworth Financial. Long-term care insurance, **Medigap** and employer-

provided or **private health insurance** plans can offset the cost of long-term care. But if these policies aren't in place before a major health event occurs, they are usually no longer available to consumers.

If your family's facing imminent need for nursing care and doesn't have an insurance plan for it in place, there are still options to help defray the cost.s

Make no mistake: Those costs can be staggering. In 2016, a private room cost an average of \$253 daily, or more than \$92,000 annually, according to a 2016 survey by Genworth Financial. A semi-private room ran \$225 daily, or \$82,125 per year. And the average nursing home stay is 835 days, or more than two years, according to the government's latest National Nursing Home Survey.

Costs widely vary from person to person, both because of geographical difference in rates and because each resident's length of stay differs. While nearly 1 in 10 residents age 75 to 84 stays in a nursing home for five or more years, nearly 3 in 10 residents in that age group stay less than 100 days, the maximum duration covered by Medicare, according to the American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance. Convalescent nursing home care, which follows a major surgery or other hospitalization, is typically short-term and can be covered by Medicare.[Read More](#)



Petition Subject: Observation Status: "Current Hospital Issues in the Medicare Program"

ADD
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**Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**

Petition Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 37 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 to get power doors installed in Post Offices and other federal buildings.

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**Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**

Petition Subject: Elimination of the Unfair GPO and WEP Provisions of the Social Security Act to make sure the Congress of the United States enacts legislation, HR.973

ADD
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**& Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**