

Medicare Talking Points

Americans value the security health care coverage provides. No one campaigned or voted on the idea of destroying Medicare and Medicaid and putting all Americans' health and security at risk.

Despite this, Speaker Paul Ryan and Rep. Tom Price, Trump's pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, are preparing legislation now to cut and turn Medicare into a voucher system.

Congress should keep its hands off Medicare!

Do Not Raise the Medicare Eligibility Age.

- Raising the age from 65 to 67 would deny 5 million seniors insurance starting in 2020. By 65, most people have health conditions that will make buying private insurance prohibitively expensive and difficult to get. These people will be forced to remain in or find a job that provides coverage at a time when it's difficult to find employment; pay for coverage themselves; or become impoverished to eligible for Medicaid, provided their state makes it available.

Do Not Replace Guaranteed Medicare Benefits with a Voucher.

- Ryan and Price want to replace your Medicare card with a limited voucher to purchase traditional Medicare or insurance in the private marketplace. There is no guarantee that the value of these vouchers will increase with inflation increasing the amount of money seniors have to spend on health care.

No Changes to Medigap or Supplemental Insurance.

- Eliminating first-dollar deductible coverage or limiting the amount of health care costs that Medigap can cover will not bring down health care costs. It will shift costs from insurance corporations to beneficiaries.
- Limiting Medigap coverage will penalize those who can least afford it -- the oldest, sickest and chronically ill.

Reject Schemes to Shift Medicare costs to Seniors.

- Combining Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase the yearly deductible for beneficiaries who don't go to the hospital by as much as \$400¹.
- A single deductible will increase hospital copays from 10% to 20%.

¹ Estimate based on Speaker Ryan's Republican Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Congress should enact the Medicare drug rebate program.

- The Medicare Drug Savings Act, which would require drug companies to provide discounts to the federal government for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, can save the government and taxpayers \$121 billion over 10 years.
- This is a common sense measure that will save the Medicare program money without harming beneficiaries.

Medicare Benefits Should Not Be Further Means Tested.

- Medicare Parts B and D are already means tested for individuals with incomes over \$85,000, and couples with incomes over \$170,000. More means testing is a direct attack on the middle class, as it will hit individuals making as little as \$47,000.

Medicaid Talking Points

Do Not Cut Health Insurance for the Most Vulnerable Americans to Pay for Tax Cuts for the Wealthy and Big Corporations.

- Medicaid covers 62% of all long term care costs in the United States. Slashing funding to states by one-third will harm seniors and people with disabilities who rely on the program for their nursing home and home care costs.
- Ryan and Price will also make dramatic cuts to Medicaid, the health care safety net for low-income women, children, seniors and people with disabilities.