

TODAY'S MUST READS – MARCH 26, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

HEALTHY FIGHT: GROUPS DIFFER ON FITTER FUTURE

WHO-TV 13

Dave Price

March 25, 2013

A coalition of groups (including the Iowa Alliance) stood together Monday to back Iowa Senate Democrats' plan to expand Medicaid for the neediest uninsured residents. Democrats want to offer the taxpayer-backed plan to uninsured Iowans at 133% of the federal poverty level for most recipients.

<http://whotv.com/2013/03/25/healthy-fight-groups-differ-on-fitter-future/>

MEDICAID EXPANSION COULD INSURE 150,000 MORE IOWANS

WQAD8

Katrina Lamansky

March 24, 2013

A group of 23 organizations (including the Iowa Alliance) is urging Governor Branstad to accept Medicaid expansion proposed by the Senate, rather than pursue his own Healthy Iowa Plan.

<http://wqad.com/2013/03/24/iowans-launch-healthiest-iowa-initiative/>

FOR MANY RETIREES, IT'S WORSE THAN IMAGINED

The Dallas Morning News

Mitchell Schnurman

March 23, 2013

Gene Lantz, President of the Texas Alliance, is interviewed in this article about how many seniors lack retirement savings and pensions.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/business/columnists/mitchell-schnurman/20130323-for-many-retirees-its-worse-than-imagined.ece>

DEBT

FOR OLDER AMERICANS, A DEEPENING DEBT PROBLEM

New York Times

Carmen Wong Ulrich

March 25, 2013

A recent report by the AARP's Public Policy Institute and the research organization Demos revealed that Americans over the age of 50 carried substantially more debt on credit cards — an average balance of \$8,278 — than those under 50, whose average balance was \$6,258.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/26/your-money/for-older-americans-a-deepening-debt-problem.html?emc=tnt&tntemail1=y&_r=0

LONG TERM CARE

EXPENSE AND EMOTIONS IN PREPARING FOR LONG-TERM CARE

New York Times

Ann Carrns

March 25, 2013

Fewer companies are offering [long term care] coverage... And the Obama administration recently abandoned plans to offer a federally sponsored option. Companies are basing premiums in part on applicants' sex, so women, who tend to live longer and so are more likely to need care, are paying more.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/26/your-money/expense-and-emotions-affect-decisions-about-long-term-care.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&_r=0

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES SIGNAL UNCERTAINTY ON DRUG SETTLEMENTS

Reuters

Lawrence Hurley

March 26, 2013

Supreme Court justices on Monday signaled uncertainty over how they would rule on whether brand-name drug companies can settle patent litigation with generic rivals by making deals to keep cheaper products off the market.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/25/us-usa-court-generics-idUSBRE92O0QS20130325>

POLITICS

SEN. TIM JOHNSON WON'T SEEK REELECTION

Washington Post

Aaron Blake and Rachel Weiner

March 25, 2013

SEN. TIM JOHNSON (D-S.D.) IS SET TO ANNOUNCE TUESDAY THAT HE WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION IN 2014.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/03/25/tim-johnson-to-announce-future-plans-tuesday/>

SENATE ON RECORD OPPOSING USE OF CHAINED CPI

The Hill

Erik Wasson

March 22, 2013

The Senate voted Friday night to oppose cutting entitlement benefits for veterans using a new method (Chained CPI) of calculating inflation. Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) said he supported protecting veterans, but supported using chained CPI elsewhere.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/289981-senate-on-record-opposing-use-of-chained-cpi>