

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 26, 2013

## **ALLIANCE MENTIONS**

"FUTURE SELF" PHOTOS AIM TO INSPIRE RETIREMENT SAVINGS

NBC News

February 23, 2013

This article is illustrated with a photo of seniors from a 2009 Florida Alliance meeting.

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/tech/Future-Self-Photos-Aim-to-Inspire-Retirement-Savings-192736271.html>

## **HEALTH CARE**

HEALTH CARE TWITTER DEPENDS ON WHO'S TWEETING

Politico

February 26, 2013

Medicare dominates lawmakers' health tweets — occurring more frequently than unemployment, abortion or even Obamacare. Medicaid expansion also scored big in recent months.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/health-care-twitter-depends-on-whos-tweeting-88065.html?hp=r14>

LEW: WHITE HOUSE OPPOSES HIGHER MEDICARE AGE, MEDICAID CUTS

The Hill

February 25, 2013

The White House still opposes entitlement cuts it once supported, Treasury secretary nominee Jack Lew said in response to questions from Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah).

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicaid/284651-lew-white-house-opposes-higher-medicare-age-medicaid-cuts>

A COMPLEX ROLE FOR MEDICARE IN THE STANDOFF IN WASHINGTON

New York Times

February 24, 2013

The politics of one core dispute between Democrats and Republicans — what to do about Medicare — are changing. And some of those changes complicate President Obama's agenda, even as he continues to flex his postelection muscle.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/25/us/politics/medicare-is-at-the-heart-of-the-fiscal-fight.html?emc=tnt&tntemail=y>

## BUSINESS OWNERS URGE CONGRESS TO TAKE MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS OFF THE TABLE

Washington Post  
February 19, 2013

80 percent of business owners said they oppose proposals to save federal money by curbing Social Security benefits, which have been floated in varying degrees by both parties in Washington. Nearly three in four said lawmakers shouldn't cut back on Medicare, and two in three said the same about proposed cuts to Medicaid.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-small-business/business-owners-urge-congress-to-take-medicare-social-security-cuts-off-the-table/2013/02/19/8ed17e6c-7add-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-small-business/business-owners-urge-congress-to-take-medicare-social-security-cuts-off-the-table/2013/02/19/8ed17e6c-7add-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d_story.html)

## SEQUESTER

### BUDGET SEQUESTER: CUTS WOULD HIT VACCINATION, ELDERLY MEALS, CHILDCARE

NBC News  
February 26, 2013

Four thousand children in Georgia who won't get free vaccines. More than 2,000 food safety inspections cancelled. Four million meals that won't go to homebound seniors.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/50948044/ns/health/#.USzJhx0qbj5>

### GOVERNORS' D.C. SUMMIT DOMINATED BY MEDICAID AND THE SEQUESTER

NPR  
February 25, 2013

The discussion reportedly was dominated by two more pressing issues of the day: whether or not to expand the Medicaid program as part of the Affordable Care Act; and the potential upcoming budget cuts set for the end of the week, known as the sequester.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/02/25/172894112/governors-d-c-summit-dominated-by-medicaid-and-the-sequester>

### GOP SENATOR OPEN TO TAX HIKE FOR ENTITLEMENT-CUT DEAL

The Wall Street Journal  
February 25, 2013

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.), a key Senate Republican worried about impending defense budget cuts, Monday diverged from the GOP party line by saying he would be willing to raise \$600 billion in new tax revenue if Democrats would accept major entitlement reforms in a big deficit-reduction package.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/02/25/gop-senator-urges-tax-hike-for-entitlement-cut-deal/?KEYWORDS=medicare>

## SEQUESTER THREATENS HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS

CBS News

February 25, 2013

To reach \$1.6 billion in cuts, Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), says the NIH will turn down one thousand of the best new research proposals from the nation's leading labs and medical schools.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563\\_162-57571221/sequester-threatens-health-research-projects/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57571221/sequester-threatens-health-research-projects/)

## CUTS COULD HARM HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Politico

February 25, 2013

The agency would be unable to buy 540,000 vaccines against diseases including the flu, measles and whooping cough; could support about 25,000 fewer breast and cervical cancer screenings for poor, high-risk women; and provide more than 400,000 fewer HIV tests, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius estimated.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/cuts-could-harm-health-emergency-preparedness-88059.html>