

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 19, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

WHAT TO DO TODAY: PRESIDENT'S DAY EDITION

East Bay Express
February 18, 2013

Join author/activist Norman Solomon at a town hall meeting of the California Alliance for Retired Americans regarding cuts to vital services, and what you can do to stop them.

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/CultureSpyBlog/archives/2013/02/18/what-to-do-today-presidents-day-edition>

ADVOCATES TELL NH HOUSE COMMITTEE TO REPEAL VOTER ID

Concord Patch
February 18, 2013

Advocates for overturning the state's Voter ID law were out in force at a recent House Election Law Committee hearing at the Statehouse, calling the legislation unworkable and unneeded. Ron Geoffroy, the senior executive vice president for the Alliance for Retired Americans, was one of the speakers.

<http://concord-nh.patch.com/articles/advocates-tell-nh-house-committee-to-repeal-voter-id>

EXPANDING MEDICARE NEEDED TO EASE COST OF LONG TERM CARE

InsuranceNewsNet
February 15, 2013

In addition to having parts A, B, C and D, "Medicare needs to have a Part E to provide long-term care so people can stay independent in their own homes and live and die with dignity," said Jodie Reid, executive director of the California Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://www.insurancenewsnet.com/article.aspx?id=372423#.USOPhR0qbj4>

ALLIANCE PEOPLE

UNWISE PROGRAM CUTS

Fresno Bee
February 16, 2013

Gene Roza, a member of the California Alliance, writes a letter to the editor opposing cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/02/16/3177487/unwise-program-cuts.html>

HEALTH CARE

FINDING OUT WHO PAYS YOUR DOCTOR

New York Times
February 18, 2013

The Obama administration issued a new rule this month that requires the makers of prescription drugs and other medical products to disclose what they pay doctors for various purposes, like consulting or speaking on behalf of the manufacturer.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/19/opinion/finding-out-who-pays-your-doctor.html?>

POLITICS

OBAMA TO PRESS CONGRESS AGAIN FOR SEQUESTER FIX

Politico
February 19, 2013

President Obama will on Tuesday pick up his push for Congress to find a way to delay the automatic cuts that are due to take effect at the start of March. Obama is due to speak at 10:45 a.m. ET in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

<http://www.politico.com/politico44/2013/02/obama-to-press-congress-again-for-sequester-fix-157256.html?hp=f3>

ERSKINE BOWLES PESSIMISTIC ABOUT A ‘GRAND BARGAIN’

Politico
February 19, 2013

The former heads of the commission — Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson — unveiled a new debt reduction plan Tuesday they said is intended to pressure the White House and Congress to stop squabbling and act. Among other cuts, their plans cuts \$600 billion from Medicare and Medicaid and reduces Social Security cost of living adjustments.

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/erskine-bowles-pessimistic-about-a-grand-bargain-87776.html?hp=t2_3

REPUBLICAN SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA WON'T RUN IN 2014

New York Times
February 18, 2013

Senator Mike Johanns, a Nebraska Republican who is in his first term, announced on Monday that he would not seek re-election next year, the fifth lawmaker to bow out of a Senate that has become increasingly polarized and dysfunctional.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/19/us/politics/mike-johanns-wont-seek-re-election-to-senate.html?ref=politics>

VAN HOLLEN WOULD WEIGH MEDICARE CUTS AS PART OF TAX DEAL

Bloomberg

February 16, 2013

The top Democrat on the House Budget Committee said he's willing to consider combining Medicare's Part A and B, which pay for hospital and doctors' services, to wring inefficiencies out of the health care program for the aged.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-15/democrats-willing-to-consider-medicare-cuts-van-hollen-says.html>