

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 13, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

SENIORS DEMAND: NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, OR MEDICAID!

The Berkeley Daily Planet
February 12, 2013

On Presidents' Day local seniors will send a message to Congress -No Cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) is hosting the Town Hall as Washington gears up for a fight over the federal budget.

<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2013-02-08/article/40767?headline=Seniors-Demand-No-Cuts-to-Social-Security-Medicare-or-Medicaid---From-Margot-Smith>

ALLIANCE PUBLICATIONS

LETTER FROM STATE PRESIDENTS (CORRECTED LINK)

Rhode Island ARA News
February 8, 2013

The 33 state presidents and the national officers of the Alliance write a letter to President Obama urging him to renew the nation's commitment to the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs during the State of the Union Address next week.

<http://www.ri-ara.org/RI%20ARA%20News.html>

*This item ran yesterday, but there was a problem with the link.

MEDICARE

OBAMA: LIMITED COST-CUTTING FOR MEDICARE

The Washington Post
February 12, 2013

When it came to Medicare, Obama reiterated his determination to accept only limited cost-cutting proposals.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/02/12/obama-limited-cost-cutting-for-medicare/>

RUBIO PLUGS GOP MEDICARE PLAN

The Hill
February 12, 2013

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) criticized President Obama's healthcare law and plugged Republicans' controversial Medicare plan during his response to the State of the Union on Tuesday.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/282741-rubio-plugs-gop-medicare-plan#ixzz2Kn39owh4>

HEALTH CARE

DISPUTE DEVELOPS OVER DISCOUNT DRUG PROGRAM

New York Times
February 12, 2013

A dispute has developed over the 340B program, which requires most drug companies to provide hefty discounts — typically 20 to 50 percent — to hospitals and clinics that treat low-income and uninsured patients.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/13/business/dispute-develops-over-340b-discount-drug-program.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

CANCER RESEARCH AT 'CRISIS POINT,' ADVOCATES SAY

The Hill
February 12, 2013

Budget sequestration would severely curtail federal efforts to understand and fight cancer, advocates warned in a congressional briefing Tuesday.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/public-global-health/282579-cancer-research-at-crisis-point-advocates-say#ixzz2Kn4MBfXI>

NORTH CAROLINA'S MEDICAID PROGRAM TOO TROUBLED TO EXPAND: GOVERNOR

Reuters
February 12, 2013

North Carolina will not expand Medicaid coverage under President Barack Obama's signature healthcare reform law and will play no role in setting up the required health insurance exchange, Governor Pat McCrory said on Tuesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/13/us-usa-northcarolina-healthcare-idUSBRE91C02B20130213>

POLITICS

IN AN AGE OF SPENDING CUTS, MAKING THE CASE FOR GOVERNMENT

New York Times
February 13, 2013

Thirty-two years after President Ronald Reagan proclaimed that “government is the problem” and 17 years after President Bill Clinton offered a surrender of sorts on that issue by stating that

