

TODAY'S MUST READS – MAY 8, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

ELIZABETH WARREN URGES REPEAL OF SEQUESTER, HIGHER TAXES FOR THE WEALTHY

Mass. Live
Shira Schoenberg
May 7, 2013

Warren on Wednesday plans to join eight senators – seven Democrats and Vermont independent Bernie Sanders – participating in a summit in Washington, D.C. aimed at preserving Social Security benefits. The Alliance for Retired Americans and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare will also participate in the event, which will highlight opposition to the use of chained CPI to calculate Social Security benefits.

http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/05/elizabeth_warren_urges_repeal.html

OVERNIGHT HEALTH: GOP WEIGHS SECOND HIGH-RISK POOLS VOTE

The Hill
Elise Viebeck and Sam Baker
May 7, 2013

Liberal lawmakers will hold an event with the Alliance for Retired Americans and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare on defending Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security benefits from cuts.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/298317-overnight-health#ixzz2Si3h0tyn>

BUDGET

AS RED INK RECEDES, PRESSURE FADES FOR BUDGET DEAL

The Washington Post
Lori Montgomery and Zachary A. Goldfarb
May 7, 2013

After four years of trillion-dollar deficits, the red ink is receding rapidly in Washington, easing pressure on policymakers but shattering hopes for a summertime budget deal. Instead, the fiscal fight appears certain to bleed into the fall, when policymakers will face another multi-pronged crisis that pairs the need for a higher debt limit and the fresh risk of default with the threat of a full-scale government shutdown, which is also looming Oct. 1.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/as-red-ink-recedes-pressure-fades-for-budget-deal/2013/05/07/5eaf8b2-b71e-11e2-92f3-f291801936b8_story.html

RYAN SEES NO 'GRAND BARGAIN' ON BUDGET

The Wall Street Journal

Corey Boles

May 7, 2013

House Budget Committee Chairman **Paul Ryan** (R., Wis.) said that he thought the parties were too far apart on the question of overhauling major entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid, saying this would prevent a major deal from being concluded.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/05/07/paul-ryan-sees-no-grand-bargain-on-budget/?KEYWORDS=medicare>

HEALTHCARE

ONE HOSPITAL CHARGES \$8,000 — ANOTHER, \$38,000

The Washington Post

Sarah Kilff and Dan Keating

May 8, 2013

For the first time, the federal government will release the prices that hospitals charge for the 100 most common inpatient procedures. Until now, these charges have been closely held by facilities that see a competitive advantage in shielding their fees from competitors. What the numbers reveal is a health-care system with tremendous, seemingly random variation in the costs of services.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/05/08/one-hospital-charges-8000-another-38000/>

PRIMARY PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE CALLS FOR INTERVENTION

Politico

Sen. Bernie Sanders

May 7, 2013

Tragically, some 45,000 Americans die each year because they don't see a doctor until it's too late. We need to substantially increase the number of primary-care practitioners.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/05/doctors-physician-shortage-calls-for-intervention-91024.html?hp=r17>

SEQUESTER

SENIORS HIT BY SEQUESTRATION

Santa Maria Times

Brian Bullock

May 8, 2013

The Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging was notified by the California Department of Aging that its May and June budget is going to be \$57,735 light, which means services will be cut.

http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/seniors-hit-by-sequestration/article_80008fd2-b7a4-11e2-be21-0019bb2963f4.html

HOW SEQUESTRATION IS DEVASTATING PROGRAMS THAT AID SENIOR CITIZENS

ThinkProgress

Anna Chu

May 7, 2013

Stories about sequestration's harmful cuts to seniors have continued to pour in from across the country. The stories from Florida and Maine have been particularly wrenching.

<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/05/07/1975261/how-sequestration-is-devastating-programs-that-aid-senior-citizens/?mobile=nc>