

TODAY'S MUST READS – MARCH 11, 2013

## **ALLIANCE MENTIONS**

### **UNIONS BACK PLAN TO SHORE UP SOCIAL SECURITY**

Workday Minnesota

Mark Gruenberg

March 11, 2013

The AFL-CIO, Alliance for Retired Americans, the Steelworkers and the Auto Workers back new legislation to close Social Security's future funding gap – which won't begin for another 20 years – by taxing millionaires and billionaires, sponsors of the legislation say.

[http://www.workdayminnesota.org/index.php?news\\_6\\_5464](http://www.workdayminnesota.org/index.php?news_6_5464)

### **WHO IS BEING REPRESENTED?**

BCRNews (Illinois)

Judith Haggenjos

March 8, 2013

Judith Haggenjos writes a letter to the editor condemning Congressional attacks on Social Security and Medicare, as well as government “borrowing” from the Social Security Trust for other purposes. She cites the Alliance in her letter.

<http://www.bcrnews.com/2013/03/05/who-is-being-represented/aangpba/?page=1>

### **NEWS THAT AFFECTS SENIORS AND OTHERS**

RI Common Ground

John Pernorio

March 2013

John Pernorio, President of the Rhode Island Alliance, authors a column on page 20-21 of Common Ground featuring recent news impacting seniors as well as recent actions taken by the Alliance.

<http://ricommongroundnews.com/current-issue-common-ground-rhode-island>

## **POLITICS**

### **OPENING BUDGET BIDS SET PARTIES' BATTLE LINES**

The Wall Street Journal

Janet Hook and Kristina Peterson

March 10, 2013

Congress opens a new chapter in the budget debate this week with the introduction of dueling blueprints from two lawmakers who illustrate their parties' vastly different approaches to the role of government.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324096404578352283403877270.html?KEYWORDS=medicare>

## DEMOCRATS NOT SOLD ON GRAND BARGAIN

Politico

Kate Nocera

March 10, 2013

The talk of any deal with congressional Republicans — and for now, it's just that: talk — has liberals worried the White House will give in to changes to safety net programs including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/dems-not-sold-on-a-safety-net-bargain-88673.html?hp=f2>

## RYAN SAYS HOUSE GOP BUDGET WILL INCLUDE OBAMACARE REPEAL

CNN

Gregory Wallace

March 10, 2013

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan says the budget he will unveil this week counts on a repeal of President Barack Obama's signature health reform law, a position which is unacceptable to many Democrats and unlikely to become law.

[http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/03/10/ryan-says-house-gop-budget-will-include-obamacare-repeal/?iid=HP\\_River](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/03/10/ryan-says-house-gop-budget-will-include-obamacare-repeal/?iid=HP_River)

## SEQUESTRATION

### FIFTEEN BETTER IDEAS THAN SEQUESTRATION

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ezra Klein

March 6, 2013

About six months ago [Michael Greenstone] approached 15 experts and asked them for their best policy proposals, which had to meet two conditions. First, they had to reduce the budget deficit. Second, they had to have "broader positive effects," such as helping the economy, increasing government efficiency, slowing global warming -- that sort of thing. The result is "15 Ways to Rethink the Federal Budget," a 110-page guidebook for the undead on how to reduce the deficit.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/opinion/perspectives/fifteen-better-ideas-than-sequestration-678070/#ixzz2NEwa6u6o>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE**

### **RESEARCH TIES ECONOMIC INEQUALITY TO GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY**

The Washington Post

Michael A. Fletcher

March 10, 2013

Raising the eligibility ages — currently 65 for Medicare and moving toward 67 for full Social Security benefits — would mean fewer benefits for lower-income workers, who typically die younger than those who make more.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/research-ties-economic-inequality-to-gap-in-life-expectancy/2013/03/10/c7a323c4-7094-11e2-8b8d-e0b59a1b8e2a\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/research-ties-economic-inequality-to-gap-in-life-expectancy/2013/03/10/c7a323c4-7094-11e2-8b8d-e0b59a1b8e2a_story.html)

### **THE FIVE BIGGEST LIES ABOUT ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS**

LA Times

Michael Hiltzik

March 8, 2013

The very word "entitlement" is a lie. Social Security and Medicare got that name because workers became "entitled" to those benefits by paying into the system. In recent years, however, the term has become distorted to signify benefits people are entitled to without earning them.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-hiltzik-20130310,0,966731.column>

### **THE WAR ON ENTITLEMENTS**

The New York Times

Thomas B. Edsall

March 6, 2013

Cutting benefits is frequently discussed in the halls of Congress, in research institutes and by analysts and columnists. The idea of subjecting earned income over \$113,700 to the Social Security payroll tax and making the Medicare tax more progressive – steps that would affect only the relatively affluent — is largely missing from the policy conversation.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/06/the-war-on-entitlements/>