

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 5, 2013

RECENT ALLIANCE MENTIONS

LEON BURZYNSKI: CUT MEDICATION COSTS, NOT MEDICAID

The CAP Times
February 3, 2013

Wisconsin Alliance President Leon Burzynski writes an op-ed opposing Medicaid cuts and advocating for cheaper medication costs.

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/leon-burzynski-cut-medication-costs-not-medicaid/article_3ac30f26-6cb8-11e2-9294-0019bb2963f4.html

PROTESTERS TO CONGRESS: HANDS OFF OUR SS, MEDICARE

Times News Online
January 31, 2013

Adam Swope, Pennsylvania field organizer for the Alliance for Retired Americans, said that the Alliance was supporting the efforts because "Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are too important to be caught up in these budget battles."

<http://www.tnonline.com/2013/jan/31/protesters-congress-hands-our-ss-medicare>

LABOR TAKES HARD LINE AGAINST SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE CUTS

In These Times
January 31, 2013

Katie Jordan is treasurer of the Alliance for Retired Americans, which represents 200,000 seniors in Illinois. She said seniors rely on Social Security for "groceries, housing, gas, basic needs," and that the alliance will "insist Congress keep their hands off America's retirement."

http://www.inthesetimes.com/working/entry/14517/labor_takes_hard_line_against_social_security_and_medicare_cuts/

NEB. LAWMAKERS CONSIDER AXING SOCIAL SECURITY TAX

Bloomberg Businessweek
January 31, 2013

Several Nebraska lawmakers shared proposals Wednesday to get rid of taxes on Social Security benefits aimed at making Nebraska a more appealing place to retire. The Nebraska Alliance for Retired Americans supports the bill.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-01-31/neb-dot-lawmakers-consider-axing-social-security-tax>

UNIONS AND ALLIES TO GOP: STOP HOLDING AMERICANS HOSTAGE!

People's World

January 30, 2013

"Once again, Republicans are ignoring the real problems facing our economy and demanding cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. But retirees and working families need more economic security, not less," said Katie Jordan, treasurer of the Illinois Alliance.

<http://www.peoplesworld.org/unions-and-allies-to-gop-stop-holding-americans-hostage/>

Alliance People

ATTENTION ELECTED OFFICIALS: DON'T PRIVATIZE THE STATE LOTTERY

Citizens Voice

January 24, 2013

Pennsylvania Alliance member Charles Urban writes a letter to the editor opposing the privatization of the state lottery.

<http://citizensvoice.com/opinion/letters/attention-elected-officials-don-t-privatize-the-state-lottery-1.1432986>

Budget

OBAMA CALLS FOR SHORT-TERM FIX TO IMMINENT SPENDING CUTS

CNN

February 5, 2013

President Barack Obama called Tuesday for a short-term agreement to put off deep cuts to government spending, including the military, set to take effect next month.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/05/politics/obama-spending-cuts/index.html>

Medicaid

OHIO'S REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR BACKS MEDICAID EXPANSION UNDER FEDERAL LAW TO COVER MORE POOR

The Washington Post

February 4, 2013

Ohio's Republican governor announced Monday he will push for expanding Medicaid under the federal health care law, a move that would give many more poor people access to government care.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/ohios-republican-governor-backs-medicaid-expansion-under-federal-law-to-cover-more-poor/2013/02/04/61133d90-6ef7-11e2-b35a-0ee56f0518d2_story.html

Medicare

U.S. PROPOSES SCRAPPING SOME OBSOLETE MEDICARE REGULATIONS

Reuters

February 4, 2013

The Obama administration on Monday proposed eliminating certain obsolete Medicare regulations, a move it said would save hospitals and other healthcare providers an estimated \$676 million a year, or \$3.4 billion over five years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/05/us-usa-healthcare-hospitals-idUSBRE91402320130205>

THERAPY PLATEAU NO LONGER ENDS COVERAGE

New York Times

February 4, 2013

The settlement of a class-action lawsuit last month now means that Medicare is prohibited from denying patients coverage for skilled nursing care, home health services or outpatient therapy because they had reached a "plateau," and their conditions were not improving.

<http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/04/therapy-plateau-no-longer-ends-coverage/?ref=health>