

TODAY'S MUST READS – MARCH 5, 2013

## **ALLIANCE MENTIONS**

### **SENATE BILL 47: AN ATTEMPT TO LIMIT VOTER RIGHTS**

Plunderbund  
Bentley Davis  
March 5, 2013

Bentley Davis, senior field director for the Ohio Alliance, writes a blog post opposing Ohio Senate Bill 47, which would make it more difficult to collect signatures to put initiatives or referendums on the ballot.

<http://www.plunderbund.com/2013/03/05/senate-bill-47-an-attempt-to-limit-voter-rights/>

### **SEQUESTER IMPACTS MO SENIORS**

The St. Louis American  
March 4, 2013

The Missouri Alliance writes an op-ed detailing how the sequester will impact the state's seniors.

[http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_8986e7d8-84ee-11e2-a12d-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/article_8986e7d8-84ee-11e2-a12d-0019bb2963f4.html)

## **WEST COUNTY NOTES**

Contra Costa Times  
Chris Treadway  
March 1, 2013

A free daylong town hall meeting, "Learn What You Can do to Save Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid," will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 12 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza. The day is presented by the Richmond Commission on Aging, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, Lifelong Medical, Doctors Medical Center, West County Senior Coalition, Safeway Inc. and Walgreens.

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/west-county-times/ci\\_22700153/chris-treadway](http://www.contracostatimes.com/west-county-times/ci_22700153/chris-treadway)

## **DEMOCRATS MEET WITH SENIORS OVER FEDERAL CUTS**

Daily Herald  
March 1, 2013

Three Democratic members of Congress met with seniors in Des Plaines Friday to talk about protecting Social Security, Medicare, and the ongoing negotiations over automatic spending cuts, known as the sequester. Along with retirees, officials from the labor union AFSCME, the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans and the National Committee Coalition Partners and Members were present at the event.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20130301/news/703019607/>

## **LONG TERM CARE**

### **GLENWOOD GARDENS CPR CASE: INDEPENDENT LIVING HOME DEFENDS NURSE WHO REFUSED TO HELP AILING PATIENT**

Huffington Post

Gosia Wozniacka and Tracie Cone

March 4, 2013

A nurse's refusal to give CPR to a dying 87-year-old woman at a California independent living home despite desperate pleas from a 911 dispatcher has prompted outrage and spawned a criminal investigation.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/04/nursing-home-cpr-case\\_n\\_2804575.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/04/nursing-home-cpr-case_n_2804575.html)

## **MEDICAID**

### **TEXANS REBUT GOVERNOR ON EXPANSION OF MEDICAID**

New York Times

Manny Fernandez

March 4, 2013

Hundreds of activists and uninsured Texans plan to rally at the steps of the Capitol here Tuesday, increasing the pressure on Gov. Rick Perry and other Republican leaders to switch their stance on expanding Medicaid, a major provision of President Obama's health care overhaul.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/us/texans-rebut-gov-rick-perry-after-rejection-of-medicaid-expansion.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/us/texans-rebut-gov-rick-perry-after-rejection-of-medicaid-expansion.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&_r=0)

## **MEDICARE**

### **GOP CENTRISTS BALK AT RYAN MEDICARE SHIFT**

The Hill

Molly K. Hooper

March 5, 2013

House Republican centrists are furious that GOP leaders are considering abandoning their pledge not to change Medicare retirement benefits for people 55 years and older. After agreeing to write a budget resolution that will balance the budget over the next decade, Ryan conceded that he might have to adjust the age to as high as 59.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/286161-centrists-balk-at-ryan-medicare-shift>

## LAX POLICING OF DOCTOR AND PHARMACY CONFLICTS IS FOUND IN MEDICARE COVERAGE DECISIONS

The New York Times

Robert Pear

March 5, 2013

Deciding which drugs will be covered by Medicare can influence huge amounts of spending, but government officials do little to police conflict of interest among doctors and pharmacists who make those decisions, federal investigators said Monday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/us/lax-policing-of-doctor-and-pharmacy-conflicts-is-found-in-medicare-coverage-decisions.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&r=0>

## PAUL RYAN FLOATS CHANGE TO MEDICARE PLAN

Politico

Jake Sherman and Jonathan Allen

March 4, 2013

Ryan — the House Budget Committee chairman — has privately been floating the idea of allowing his changes to Medicare to kick in for Americans younger than 56. In previous budgets, those 55 and older were exempted from his plan to turn Medicare into a premium-support — or voucher — program.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/paul-ryan-floating-change-to-budget-88399.html#ixzz2Mg2Jv31B>

## ACCESS TO DOCTORS SHRINKS FOR SOME MEDICARE PATIENTS

PBS NewsHour

March 4, 2013

Much of the political talk on Medicare focuses on its rising costs. But, for some patients, there are growing concerns about how hard it is to find a doctor.

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/health/jan-june13/medicare\\_03-04.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/health/jan-june13/medicare_03-04.html)

## COMMISSION ADVOCATES ENDING FEE-FOR-SERVICE SYSTEM

Politico

Jennifer Haberkorn

March 4, 2013

The National Commission on Physician Payment Reform is calling for eliminating the fee-for-service model within seven years, starting with a five-year transition period to a blended payment system.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/commission-advocates-ending-fee-for-service-88348.html#ixzz2Mg9oGJk5>