

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 20, 2013

## **ALLIANCE MENTIONS**

### **SINGLE PAYER UP AGAINST IT IN CALIFORNIA**

Single Payer Action

February 19, 2013

The California Alliance for Retired Americans is one of several public interest groups working to get a single payer health insurance bill introduced in the California legislature.

<http://www.singlepayeraction.org/blog/?p=3603>

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **HOW THE SEQUESTER COULD AFFECT HEALTH CARE**

NPR

February 19, 2013

Under a specially negotiated provision, Medicare beneficiaries will not be subject to benefit cuts. But Medicare providers can be docked up to 2 percent.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/02/19/172415025/how-the-sequester-could-affect-health-care>

### **U.S. TO OPERATE 26 STATE HEALTH EXCHANGES WITH LITTLE LOCAL HELP**

Reuters

February 19, 2013

The Obama administration said on Tuesday that it will operate federal online health insurance marketplaces in 26 of the 50 U.S. states with little or no input from local state officials.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/19/us-usa-healthcare-exchanges-idUSBRE91I18520130219>

### **INVITATION TO A DIALOGUE: FIX MEDICARE TO SAVE IT**

NY Times

February 19, 2013

While lawmakers must address the ominous Medicare financing crisis, their first priority should be to fix Medicare and transform it into a user-friendly health insurance program with one monthly premium and reasonable co-payments for all services.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/opinion/invitation-to-a-dialogue-fix-medicare-to-save-it.html?emc=tnt&tntemail1=y>

## HEALTH INSURER STOCKS SLIP OVER POSSIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PAYMENT CUTS

Washington Post  
February 19, 2013

Health insurance stocks wobbled Tuesday after data released by the federal government pointed to possible steep Medicare Advantage payment cuts in 2014, which could lead to reduced coverage or fewer options for people buying the plans.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/health-insurer-stocks-slip-over-possible-medicare-advantage-payment-cuts/2013/02/19/dbf8130a-7ac3-11e2-9c27-fdd594ea6286\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/health-insurer-stocks-slip-over-possible-medicare-advantage-payment-cuts/2013/02/19/dbf8130a-7ac3-11e2-9c27-fdd594ea6286_story.html)

## POLITICS

### SHUTDOWN ISN'T FIGHT GOP WANTS

The Hill  
February 20, 2013

Republicans have decided that the sequester scheduled for March 1 — not a government-funding bill due at the end of March — is where they'll make their stand on spending cuts.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/283909-shutdown-isnt-fight-gop-wants#ixzz2LS6AMt7X>

### WITH CUTBACKS DAYS AWAY, OBAMA TRIES TO PRESSURE G.O.P.

NY Times  
February 19, 2013

To turn up the pressure on the absent lawmakers, Mr. Obama warned in calamitous terms of the costs to military readiness, domestic investments and vital services if a “meat-cleaver” approach of indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts takes effect on March 1.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/us/politics/obama-to-turn-up-pressure-for-deal-on-budget-cuts.html?ref=politics>

### SUPREME COURT TO CONSIDER LIMITS ON INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Washington Post  
February 19, 2013

The Supreme Court reentered the controversial field of campaign finance Tuesday, agreeing to consider a Republican challenge to decades-old limits on the total amount a person can contribute to candidates, political parties and political action committees.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-to-consider-limits-on-individual-political-contributions/2013/02/19/9126e474-7ad1-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-to-consider-limits-on-individual-political-contributions/2013/02/19/9126e474-7ad1-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d_story.html)