

TODAY'S MUST READS – FEBRUARY 22, 2013

ALLIANCE MENTIONS

ADVOCACY GROUPS BRAVE COLD TO DELIVER PETITIONS TO BOEHNER

Hamilton Journal News

February 20, 2013

With the March 1 sequestration deadline looming, more than 40 people representing a dozen labor and social advocacy groups rallied Wednesday at U.S. House Speaker John Boehner's district office in West Chester Twp. to urge him to work with President Obama to stop the automatic across-the-board spending cuts. The Ohio Alliance was one of the co-sponsors.

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/news/advocacy-groups-brave-cold-to-deliver-petitions-to/nWTrD/>

PROTESTERS PICKET LOCAL BUSINESS IN OPPOSITION OF ITS DECISION TO IGNORE NEW MINIMUM WAGE LAWS

New Mexico Daily Lobo

February 20, 2013

A Nob Hill restaurant's decision to not adhere to the city's recent minimum wage increase elicited outrage from Albuquerque activists Tuesday morning. New Mexico Alliance for Retired Americans field consultant Terry Schleder said the owners are breaking the law by not providing pay increases to their employees.

<http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2013/02/protesters-picket-local-business-in-opposition-of-its-decision-to-ignore-new-minimum-wage-laws>

ADVANCING THE DEBATE: SHOULD PENNSYLVANIA'S LOTTERY GO PRIVATE?

Governing

February 20, 2013

Pennsylvania's attorney general, Kathleen Kane, made headlines last week by rejecting a contract to privatize the state lottery... The Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans gave Kane "kudos" and demanded that state leaders abandon the privatization idea altogether.

<http://www.governing.com/blogs/view/gov-advancing-the-debate-should-pennsylvanias-state-lottery-go-private.html>

HEALTH CARE

EXCLUSIVE: AN INTERVIEW WITH MARILYN TAVENNER, OBAMA'S PICK TO HEAD MEDICARE

Washington Post

February 21, 2013

For over a year now, Marilyn Tavenner has run the federal government's largest agency: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. With a budget of nearly \$1 trillion, Tavenner oversees everything from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act to programs that already administer health benefits to more than 80 million Americans.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/02/21/exclusive-an-interview-with-marilyn-tavenner-obamas-pick-to-head-medicare/>

GOVERNORS FALL AWAY IN G.O.P. OPPOSITION TO MORE MEDICAID

New York Times

February 21, 2013

Under pressure from the health care industry and consumer advocates, seven Republican governors are cautiously moving to expand Medicaid, giving an unexpected boost to President Obama's plan to insure some 30 million more Americans.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/22/us/politics/gop-governors-providing-a-lift-for-health-law.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&r=0>

PHARMACY TRADE GROUP SHIFTS POSITION ON FEDERAL OVERSIGHT

The Washington Post

February 21, 2013

The head of the nation's largest trade group for the specialty pharmacies known as compounders said he will support legislation requiring pharmacies that operate like drug manufacturers to register with the Food and Drug Administration and be subject to stricter standards enforced by the agency.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/pharmacy-trade-group-shifts-position-on-federal-oversight/2013/02/21/c35627e0-7bb5-11e2-a044-676856536b40_story.html?hpid=z1

FLU VACCINE HAS BEEN FEEBLE FOR ELDERLY THIS SEASON

NPR

February 21, 2013

This year's flu vaccine appears to be doing an unusually poor job of protecting the elderly, federal health officials reported Thursday.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/02/21/172612207/flu-vaccine-has-been-feeble-for-elderly-this-season>

POLITICS

WHITE HOUSE CHANGES COURSE ON SEQUESTER

Politico

February 22, 2013

For the last six months, the White House told the groups that will suffer the biggest blow if domestic cuts go through one thing: We've got this. But a week before the sequester deadline, they've decided to change course, summoning cops, teachers, nurses and first responders to the White House for meetings on how to pitch their case to lawmakers on Capitol Hill reluctant to cut a deal.

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/white-house-changes-course-on-sequester-87930.html?ml=po_r

CRITICAL DIFFERENCES BELIE HOPES FOR A GRAND BARGAIN

The New York Times

February 22, 2013

Even as President Obama lashes out at Republicans over the automatic spending cuts that take effect next week, he is simultaneously sending them a strikingly different message: he is still interested in a big deficit-reduction deal and as evidence of his good faith has left on the table proposed Medicare and Social Security cuts that liberals hate.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/22/us/politics/questions-and-answers-about-the-sequester.html?emc=tnt&tntemail1=y>