

FRIDAY ALERT



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Hillary Clinton Announces Plan to Address Price Gouging on Life-saving Drugs

Hillary Clinton [said](#) on Friday that if elected to the White House, she would create an oversight panel to protect U.S. consumers from price hikes on life-saving drugs and import alternative treatments if needed, *Reuters* reported.

Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, proposes giving the panel the ability to levy fines and impose penalties on manufacturers when there has been an "unjustified, outlier price increase" on a long-available drug, Clinton's campaign said.

"We commend Secretary Clinton for introducing a policy that would save lives," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance.

"It's time to level the playing field," added **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance, in a [statement](#). "By directing the government to take swift action against unfair and monopolistic business practices, the Clinton plan helps both seniors and taxpayers. We strongly support this proposal."

Clinton cited Turing Pharmaceuticals raising the price of the AIDS drug pyrimethamine and Mylan's recent act to increase the cost of EpiPen for severe allergy sufferers as "troubling" examples of price hikes that have attracted scrutiny. Seniors have been complaining of [similar price hikes for insulin](#) in recent months.

When a determined unjustified price hike is accompanied by insufficient market competition, Clinton's administration would "intervene to purchase alternative drugs from comparably regulated markets or assist manufacturers in bringing the product to market in the United States."

Voters Trust Hillary Clinton on Health Care Issues

The Kaiser Family Foundation's [August 2016 poll](#) found that voters have more faith in Sec. Clinton than **Donald Trump** to address health care issues. Among registered voters overall, 53 percent think Sec. Clinton will do a better job dealing with the future of Medicare, compared to 38 percent for Trump.

Respondents over the age of 65 are more divided on which candidate they trust more on health care. Forty-seven percent of seniors believe Sec. Clinton will do a better job handling Medicare's future and 44 percent put their trust in Mr. Trump.

The study also discovered two-thirds of overall voters consider health care issues like access and affordability of care and the future of Medicare as "top priorities" in the 2016 election. Health care

should be a “top priority” for the presidential candidates, according to 62 percent of independent voters, 55 percent of Republican voters and 77 percent of Democratic voters.

“The Kaiser poll illustrates that health care must be front and center in the 2016 presidential campaign,” said President Roach. “The Alliance will continue to reach out to seniors so that they know Secretary Clinton is the candidate who will defend health care for seniors. She is the one who will allow seniors to continue receiving free, annual wellness checks, lifesaving cancer screenings and other preventive treatments through Medicare.”

“Labor Day: We Earned It”

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) released a new [video](#) outlining the importance of labor in America in conjunction with the Labor Day holiday Monday, September 5.

The video addresses issues currently plaguing America including wage stagnation, out of control health care costs, and income inequality. It also draws parallels to the plights of workers in the 1910s, when the Labor Movement began.

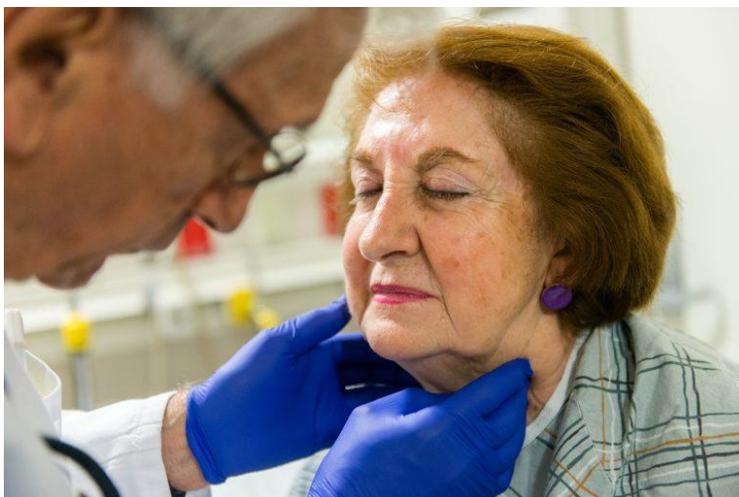
“AFGE’s clever video shows how far we’ve come, and encourages each individual to use Labor Day as a time to make a difference in whatever unique way he or she can,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

From the Campaign Trail: Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV)

The [Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee](#) released a television [ad](#) this week that sheds light on Rep. **Joe Heck**, Nevada’s GOP senatorial candidate. The ad reveals Heck’s campaign has received over \$500,000 in donations from Wall Street. It also publicizes his position that young workers should be able to gamble their retirement funds in private accounts, handing Wall Street billions in fees while earned Social Security benefits are cut.

Rep. Heck is currently in a close race for retiring U.S. Senate Democratic Leader **Harry Reid’s** seat against Nevada’s former attorney general, **Catherine Cortez Masto**.

Quiet Rooms in Hospitals for Older Patients



Hospitals are opening quiet spaces for seniors - or [Geriatric ERs](#) – that focus solely on elderly patient care. They are much quieter, have shorter wait-times, and employ specially trained staff to better meet the needs of older patients.

Studies such as those by [Health Affairs](#) show traditional emergency rooms can run unnecessary tests and procedures on seniors, adding to the price of their hospital stay. However, Geriatric ERs employ physicians, nurses and social workers who carefully track patient histories and procedures to maximize their care and keep costs down.

In 2011, about 20.4 million Americans over the age of 65 received treatment in ERs, an increase of 4.5 million from 2001. As the Baby Boomer generation matures and reaches retirement age, their medical needs will continue to increase.

“I applaud hospitals that are responding to the needs of seniors,” said Mr. Fiesta. “Older patients often seek hospital care for complex conditions, and geriatric ERs ensure seniors are treated more effectively and efficiently.”

There are now over 100 Geriatric ERs across the country, and California, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Texas are planning to open more.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.