

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

815 16th Street, NW, Fourth Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.637.5399

www.retiredamericans.org • aracommunications@retiredamericans.org

Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

November 18, 2016

Medicare's Future at Risk

With the GOP in full control of the government older Americans have good reason to be concerned about the security of their earned health care benefits.

On the campaign trail, President-elect **Donald Trump** said he'd leave Medicare alone, but has been silent over the last week as House Speaker **Paul Ryan** has said that a "Medicare overhaul" combined with a repeal of the Affordable Care Act is a top priority.

Speaker Ryan said in an [interview](#) with Fox News that, "If you're going to repeal and replace Obamacare, you have to address those issues as well.... Medicare has got some serious issues because of Obamacare. So those things are part of our plan to replace Obamacare."

Speaker Ryan's plan to eliminate Medicare's guaranteed health benefits in favor of a system of vouchers is outlined in his "A Better Way," a document that promises cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Seniors would have to use government vouchers or coupons and buy insurance on the private market."

"We can't let Speaker Paul Ryan and Donald Trump gut our earned health care benefits," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "We are prepared to go to battle and make our opposition clear to anyone to who would consider supporting this reckless idea."

Talking Points Memo is keeping a list of where each Member of Congress stands on Ryan's plans to privatize Medicare [here](#).



Trump on High Prescription Drug Prices: Never Mind?

President-elect Trump used to rail against rising prescription drug on the campaign trail. But since election day, the [Chicago Tribune reports](#) that pharmaceutical corporation lobbyists have joined his transition team and the transition website makes no mention of the issue.

“Pharmaceutical corporations are working hard to shape the next administration’s policy,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “We will have to redouble our efforts to rein in their prices and monopolistic, unfair business practices.”

Trump Transition Team Members Have Backed Past Efforts to End Social Security’s Guaranteed Earned Benefits

The retired lobbyist President-elect Trump has named to lead his [Social Security](#) transition team, Michael Korbey, is not a friend of the program which generations of retirees have relied on for a secure retirement.

Korbey has tried to eliminate or cut Social Security for decades. Back in 1996 he said of Social Security: “It’s a failed system, broken and bankrupt” and that although cuts would hurt seniors, “the government needed to focus on other constituents.”

During George W. Bush’s administration, Korbey was a senior advisor to the Social Security Administration and helped spearhead Bush’s effort to privatize Social Security.

“Here they go again,” said Richard Fiesta. “A new Republican administration heads to Washington with plans to slash earned retirement benefits. We have stopped them before and we must stop them again.”

Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Alliance for Retired Americans team. We hope that you have a safe and joyful holiday. Due to the holiday, we will not publish a Friday Alert on November 25.