

Prescription Drugs

Congress Should Allow Medicare to Negotiate for Lower Drug Prices

Eleven percent of Americans skipped doses or delayed filling a prescription because of its cost. Allowing Medicare to negotiate would reduce out-of-pocket costs for seniors and would save taxpayers \$16 billion a year. The Veterans Administration and Medicaid negotiate drug prices today; Medicare must too.

Congress Should Not Enact NAFTA 2.0 Until Drug Provisions are Fixed

The revised U.S. Mexico and Canada agreement (NAFTA 2.0) locks in high drug prices for Americans and is a huge windfall to pharmaceutical companies. Congress should not enact the agreement until the pharmaceutical provisions are fixed.

Medicare and Health Care

Medicare Should Not Be Means-tested

Medicare Parts B and D are already means-tested for individuals with incomes over \$85,000 and couples with incomes over \$170,000. More means-testing will turn Medicare into a welfare program.

Congress Should Repeal the 40% Excise (Cadillac) Tax on Employer-Sponsored Health Plans

The tax would affect women, disabled people, workers in high-risk occupations, and older Americans, particularly those in poor health or with chronic and costly medical conditions. Retirees will also likely be affected, as employers may reduce benefits for early retirees who are younger than 65 and eliminate supplemental coverage for 65+ Medicare-eligible retirees altogether.

Social Security

Congress should Expand Social Security

The average Social Security benefit is \$17,500 a year and retirees spend nearly \$6000 in out-of-pocket health costs, which makes it hard for retirees to make ends meet.

Congress should expand Social Security benefits to all beneficiaries.

Congress Should Fully Fund the SSA

Ten thousand Americans turn 65 every day. They rely on the Social Security Administration (SSA) to ensure they receive their earned benefits. Years of cuts and flat SSA budgets have forced local offices to close and lengthy waiting times for telephone assistance. Congress must fully fund the SSA and ensure that retirees and people with disabilities can get the support they need and have earned.

Pensions

Congress Should Strengthen Multiemployer Pensions and Protect Mineworkers' pensions

More than 1.5 million retirees in multiemployer pension plans could lose as much as 60% of their pension benefits due to plan insolvency. Failure to act on this issue could collapse the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) -- the government backstop created to help workers in the event of plan failure.

Congress should also enact the Butch Lewis Act (H.R. 397) to provide low-interest loans and ensure that workers and retirees do not lose the pension benefits they have earned.