President Trump has betrayed seniors, trying to cut earned benefits/health care during pandemic.

- **Trump is Using Coronavirus as a Smokescreen to Cut Social Security**
  
  President Trump has made it crystal clear that he wants to cut earned benefits, telling a reporter in January that he plans to cut “entitlements” at the end of this year. Now, he has escalated his attack by pushing a coronavirus payroll tax cut that will threaten Social Security’s dedicated stream of funding. Referring to future stimulus bills on May 3, he appeared on Fox News and said "we're not doing anything without a payroll tax cut."


  Fabian, Jordan, and Jacobs, Jennifer,”Trump Says Further Virus Stimulus Must Include Payroll Tax Cut,” Bloomberg, May 3, 2020

- **Trump’s Budget Slashes Medicare**
  
  The Trump Administration budgets propose slashing $845 BILLION from Medicare over 10 years. He has also said that gutting Medicare would be a “good second-term project.”


  Levin, Bess, “Trump has told friends that gutting Medicare could be a fun ‘second-term project,”’ Vanity Fair, August 22, 2019.

- **Trump Continues to Chip Away at ACA Despite Pandemic**
  
  The President has continued to slowly gut the Affordable Care Act (ACA) during the coronavirus pandemic, unnecessarily making seniors and uninsured Americans more vulnerable. The Trump administration has refused to take action to ensure that federal and state marketplaces are re-opened so that newly uninsured patients can get the coverage they need.

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The ACA’s annual wellness exams and preventive screenings, prescription drug discounts, and other benefits are more important for seniors now than ever. The law’s critical protections for people with pre-existing conditions are especially important given that at least 25% of people aged 50-64 years old have one or more pre-existing conditions.


Noel-Miller, Claire and Sung, Jane, “In Health Reform, Stakes are High for Older Americans with Preexisting Health Conditions,” AARP Public Policy Institute, March 2017.

**Trump Makes Nursing Home Residents More Vulnerable**

The Trump administration has eased regulations for nursing homes at every turn, relaxing requirements for safety inspections and shielding them from potential lawsuits. The administration has also neglected to require universal, immediate coronavirus testing for all nursing home residents and staff.


**Trump Makes Workers More Vulnerable**

President Trump has not required the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue guidelines and emergency regulations in response to coronavirus, unnecessarily increasing workers’ risk of infection.

No Progress on Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs -- and prices are escalating faster than the rate of inflation. Just in 2020, the average price increase for prescription drugs is 5%.

Reining in drug prices would help seniors and Medicare. High prescription drug prices are the single biggest driver of Medicare costs.

Candidate Trump promised to bring down drug prices, but has only delivered lip service, empty promises and so-called solutions that don’t get to the root of the problem.

The President has been unwilling to stand up to wealthy pharmaceutical corporations and instead has given them billions in tax breaks. His failure to act has intensified inequality during the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, members of his administration refused when asked if they would take action to ensure that coronavirus treatments and vaccines are affordable for everyone.

The President plans to thwart efforts to lower drug prices. He promised to veto a bill passed by the House of Representatives that would allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices on behalf of all Americans.

Requiring Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices on behalf of Americans must be a part of any prescription drug proposal. The government negotiates prices on everything from airplanes to military uniforms to office supplies, securing lower prices for taxpayers. Prescription drugs purchased by Medicare should be treated the same way.


President Trump has continued to denounce mail-in voting, falsely claiming that it enables widespread voter fraud -- even though he and senior members of his staff and cabinet themselves cast absentee ballots by mail. He favors forcing seniors to leave their homes to cast their ballots, often while under a shelter in place order, and risking infection from the coronavirus.

Without the funding that the president opposes, the Postal Service could run out of money as soon as September. Mail service interruptions could begin just as absentee voting by mail takes place in the states that have fully implemented it.


Expanding Social Security and increasing benefits by eliminating the cap on earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax would mean that the wealthiest Americans finally pay their fair share into the system. President Trump has endorsed doing just the opposite - cutting Social Security.