



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.”

Kernen, Joe, “CNBC Transcript: President Donald Trump Sits Down With CNBC’s Joe Kernen at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland,” CNBC, January 22, 2020.

Johnson, Jake, “Trump Call for Permanent Payroll Tax Cut Is ‘Code for Gutting Social Security’s Dedicated Funding,’ Say Critics,” Common Dreams, April 8, 2020.

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.”

Golshan, Tara, “Trump said he wouldn’t cut Medicaid, Social Security, and Medicare. His 2020 budget cuts all 3,” Vox, March 12, 2019.

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.

Bennett, Geoff and Fitzsimons, Tim, "Trump admin will not reopen Obamacare exchanges during coronavirus pandemic," NBC, April 1, 2020.

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.

Pear, Robert, "Trump Moves to Impede Consumer Lawsuits Against Nursing Homes," New York Times, August 8, 2018.

Drucker, Jesse and Silver-Greenberg, Jessica, "Trump Administration Is Relaxing Oversight of Nursing Homes" New York Times, March 14, 2020.



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.

Knight, Victoria, "Biden Says OSHA Isn't Doing Enough To Protect Workers' From COVID-19," Kaiser Health News, April 23, 2020.



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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.

Erman, Michael, "More drugmakers hike U.S. prices as new year begins," Reuter/Yahoo, January 1, 2020.

Silverman, Ed, "Azar has a 'tin ear' when it comes to pricing a potential coronavirus treatment," STAT, February 27, 2020.

Karlin-Smith, Sarah, "How Trump and the Democrats parted ways on lowering drug prices," POLITICO, December 11, 2019.



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Trump opposes voting by mail, making it harder for older Americans to cast their ballots

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.

Amy Gardner and Elise Viebeck, "GOP pushes voting by mail — with restrictions — while Trump attacks it as 'corrupt,'" The Washington Post, April 13, 2020.

Allison Pecorin, "Postal Service says it's going broke due to pandemic, Trump flatly opposes emergency aid," ABC News, April 13, 2020.

Trump has done nothing to expand Social Security

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.

Michael Hiltzik, "Column: Trump opens door to Social Security cuts," Los Angeles Times, January 23, 2020.