



Update

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8 * SPRING 2011



Dear Friend,

Social Security and Medicare are solemn pledges to our seniors – a promise of a safe and secure source of retirement income and health care for Americans. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is among my top priorities.

Fighting the Attack on Seniors

House Republicans voted to pass a budget to end Medicare as we know it and dramatically raise seniors' health costs. AARP stated the plan, "rather than tackling skyrocketing health care costs, would simply shift these costs onto the backs of people in Medicare." I was proud to join every Democrat in the House in voting against this misguided plan.

Defending Medicare

Their plan immediately raises costs for seniors, who would face higher prescription drug costs as they end health reform's provisions closing the 'donut hole' by 2020. And, they eliminate the new free preventive care benefit under Medicare, including the free annual wellness visit. They would cut funding for Medicaid and turn it into a block grant, denying many vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities who have exhausted their assets access to long-term care and forcing cuts in the quality and safety of nursing homes.

The Republican budget breaks the promise that after a lifetime of work, you can depend on Medicare to protect you in retirement. Under their plan, everyone currently under age 55 would not be enrolled in Medicare, but would be forced to buy private insurance with a voucher that decreases in value each year. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, their plan would more than double a typical senior's health care costs in 2022 – increasing an individual's out-of-pocket health costs by more than \$6,000.

Preserving Social Security

For 75 years, Social Security has provided seniors with the peace of mind that comes from a secure retirement. While Congress must address the long-term funding challenges to Social Security, any reforms must be focused on ensuring its long-term stability. I will oppose any effort to privatize or weaken Social Security.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi



CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI
COMMEMORATES THE 75TH
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**CONSTITUENT SERVICES: HAVING A PROBLEM OBTAINING YOUR FEDERAL BENEFITS,
LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI & MEDICARE? MY OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.
CALL MY SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE AT (415) 556-4862 TO SPEAK WITH A CASEWORKER.**



SENIORS: HOW THE NEW HEALTH CARE LAW WORKS FOR YOU

Last year, a Democratic-led Congress and President Obama, with the backing of AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and numerous other seniors' groups, enacted comprehensive health insurance reform that preserves Medicare and keeps you in control of your own health care. The new health care law will improve health care for seniors, including:

- **Extending the life of Medicare by an additional 12 years.**
- **Closing the Medicare Part D prescription drug 'donut hole,'** phasing it out completely by 2020.
- **Providing Free Preventive Care** so that you will pay nothing on recommended preventive services that will keep you healthier longer.
- **Helping seniors remain at home,** by allowing states to offer home-based services to disabled individuals through Medicaid rather than institutional care, beginning on October 1, 2011.

CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI JOINS WITH SENIORS TO OPPOSE THE BUDGET PLAN THAT WOULD END MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT.