

The 2012 Democratic Party of Virginia State Convention Rejects the Republican Plan to End Medicare and to Undermine the Medicaid and Social Security Guarantees

Background

When Medicare was created in 1965, it marked a major and important change for seniors in our nation. Before the enactment of Medicare, more than half of all seniors had little or no access to health care because they could not afford it.

Along with the Social Security and Medicaid programs, the Medicare guarantee is one of America's greatest success stories.

Today, all seniors and people with disabilities have guaranteed, affordable health care because of Medicare. But the program is under attack and faces a threat to its very existence by a radical plan advanced by Republicans in Congress – known as the Ryan budget plan – to eliminate Medicare as we know it and replace it with a privatized system that would provide future seniors with a voucher covering only a portion of their cost to purchase private health insurance in the open market.

The Republican Ryan budget would cost seniors an extra \$7,000 a year in health care costs. Out-of-pocket medical costs would double for seniors over the next decade and triple by 2030, requiring seniors to pay about 68 percent of their health care costs.

The Ryan budget plan passed by congressional Republicans and embraced by Virginia Republicans would end guaranteed medical coverage for seniors, increase the costs of prescription drugs by reopening the so-called Medicare Part D “doughnut hole,” and once again allow insurance companies to deny coverage to seniors with pre-existing conditions.

Republicans continue to push to privatize Social Security and make drastic cuts in Medicaid benefits.

Action

The 2012 Democratic Party of Virginia State Convention:

1. Applauds our Virginia Democratic congressional delegation's efforts to preserve Medicare and Social Security for future generations; and
2. Strongly opposes Republican efforts to dismantle Medicare and privatize Social Security; and
3. Reaffirms our commitment to protecting the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security guarantees.