

## PAUL RYAN'S BUDGET PROPOSAL WILL ELIMINATE MEDICARE

Those 55 and under would not be eligible for traditional Medicare.

Starting in 2022, the age of eligibility for Medicare will "increase by two months per year until it reached 67 in 2033."



Paul Ryan's proposal will eliminate traditional Medicare in 10 years by forcing seniors and beneficiaries into the private market to purchase insurance. Ryan's proposal would have Medicare eligible people receive a pre-determined amount to purchase private coverage – about \$8,000 in 2022. If health costs increase, recipients will be responsible for the difference between the rise in premiums and the \$8,000 contribution, making coverage unaffordable. (And it will be increasingly so since the voucher does not keep up with health care spending.)

## PAUL RYAN'S PROPOSAL WILL WEAKEN MEDICAID

In 2013, the proposal would eliminate the existing matching-grant financing structure of Medicaid and would instead give each state a pre-determined block grant. According to the CBO, States would be forced to reduce their spending, lower the size of their Medicaid programs "by cutting payment rates for doctors, hospitals, or nursing homes; reducing the scope of benefits covered; or limiting eligibility."

These changes impact the most vulnerable in our population, while the rich continue to receive tax breaks.

## THE SOLUTION IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL WILL SOLVE OUR HEALTHCARE CRISIS AND IMPROVE OUR ECONOMY

- A study published in June, 2009 found that 62 percent of personal bankruptcies in the U.S. were due to medical costs.
- Nearly 80 percent of those who became bankrupt due to medical costs had health insurance.
- In a single-payer system, all medically necessary care is covered throughout the life of the patient.
- People pay into the system based on their ability to pay.
- People would no longer lose the coverage with the loss of employment.
- There would no longer be higher charges based on age, gender or medical condition.

**A national single-payer health system will create conditions that will stimulate our economy**

- For small businesses, single-payer means relief from the increasing burden of providing health benefits to employees.
- Single-payer ends job-lock, providing greater security for those who may choose to open their own businesses.
- Single-payer enables those who are staying in jobs until they are eligible for Medicare to retire early, which opens jobs for those who are younger.
- By controlling rising health care costs, single-payer will allow large businesses to be more competitive in the global market.

**Rather than cutting our important social insurance programs, Congress could address both our healthcare crisis and our federal deficit woes by improving and expanding Medicare to all people in our nation**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

CALL CONGRESS AT (202) 224-3121  
and ask for your senators' and/or representative's office

OPPOSE PAUL RYAN'S PLAN and  
SUPPORT IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL – HR676 and S703

JOIN HEALTHCARE NOW!  
AND START ORGANIZING YOUR COMMUNITY TO FIGHT BACK  
[www.healthcare-now.org](http://www.healthcare-now.org)