

TALKING POINTS

Here is what we are asking of our elected officials. The following could also serve as a script for congressional visits and phone calls.

1. **Keep America covered. Preserve and expand the public programs** that successfully protect tens of millions of Americans with health care, retirement and disability insurance.
2. **Oppose the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act**, throwing millions back into the ranks of the uninsured. The ACA didn't go far enough in expanding coverage to all Americans, but it did succeed in insuring more than 20 million previously uncovered and expanding Medicaid for millions. For seniors, it substantially improved Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) by shrinking the “donut hole” and improving access to preventive care.
3. **Oppose converting Medicare into a voucher-based private insurance program.** Our public Medicare program works. It is far more efficient, cost effective, and affordable than private health insurance. It's also a lot more popular and should be extended to everyone. Any attempt to cut or privatize it will harm seniors and the disabled, making health care more expensive and less accessible.
4. **Oppose converting Medicaid into fixed block grants to the states.** Keep Medicaid flexible and accessible for all those who need it. It provides an essential, effective safety net for over 70 million Americans.
5. **Oppose any attempt to privatize and/or cut Social Security.** Putting retirement funds into the stock market exposes those funds to market risk and economic crises like the 2008 recession.

Social Security works as the most secure, universal and reliable income insurance in America today. It has helped lift millions out of poverty. It should be preserved and expanded to address retirement insecurity and widening inequality. The Social Security Trust Fund is solvent. It has its own source of revenue independent of the federal budget and could fund future commitments and expansions by ending the FICA tax cap on high earners.

6. **Oppose stealth attempts to dismantle these programs through arcane rules changes that govern Congressional budget procedures.**

To call your member of Congress, dial the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. An operator will connect you directly to your congressperson's office.