

THE Senior SCOOP

Presented by
RetireSafe



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WELCOME

April showers bring May flowers, but in this case I hope it brings more people being vaccinated against COVID-19. Things are starting to pick up on the hill and issues concerning seniors are on the rise. The Democratic leadership introduced the drug pricing bill for the 117th Congress, H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, modeled after similarly dangerous legislation from the 116th Congress.

RetireSafe has grave concerns with the sweeping impacts H.R. 3 would have on Medicare Part B and, most importantly, on access to life-changing medicines for patients served by this important program.

We will continue to monitor this bill, we have already started a letter writing campaign against this bill. As other legislation is introduced we will keep you informed.

Mark Gibbons
President/CEO
RetireSafe

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Texas Medicaid Waiver Rescinded, \$11 Billion at Risk

Recently, the Biden administration rescinded the 10-year extension of Texas' Medicaid waiver that was supposed to provide \$11 billion of federal funds for hospitals, physicians, rural health clinics, and other healthcare providers. The waiver will now expire in September 2022 instead of September 2030. This waiver would have provided charity care at hospitals for another decade, but The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) said the request application wasn't properly filled out.

Texas is one of the few states that has not expanded Medicaid but the waiver is an alternative solution to make sure the uninsured can receive health services. For more information, check out these links.

<https://www.dmagazine.com/healthcare-business/2021/04/cms-rescinds-texas-medicaid-waiver/>

<https://www.bondbuyer.com/news/end-of-medicaid-waiver-puts-11-billion-at-risk-for-texas>

National Parkinson's Awareness Month

For the month of April, RetireSafe is dedicated to bringing awareness to Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is a disorder of the central nervous system that affects movement, often including tremors. Nerve cell damage in the brain causes dopamine levels to drop, leading to the symptoms of Parkinson's such as:

- Tremor
- Limb Rigidity
- Gait and Balance problems
- Bradykinesia

If you would like to learn more about Parkinson's disease, here is a brief list of credible resources that RetireSafe has compiled for your convenience. Each of these organizations are reliable sources of information regarding National Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Parkinson's Foundation

<https://www.parkinson.org/understanding-parkinsons/what-is-parkinsons>

National Institute on Aging - Parkinson's Disease

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/parkinsons-disease>

American Parkinson's Disease Association

<https://www.apdaparkinson.org/what-is-parkinsons/>



New Updates From RetireSafe

Next RetireSafe Webinar is on May 6th at 11 am - 12 pm! Check out our flyers on our social medias which are listed on our website.

The spring semester is coming to a close, which means we will be saying goodbye to our lovely interns! Thank you to Kevin Sanders, Katherine Pinney, Maria de los Pacheco, and Lyla Nguyen for all your hard work. RetireSafe wishes you all the best.

Don't forget we have a podcast entitled "Learn to RetireSafe"! Check them out using any of these links.

- [Spotify](#)
- [Anchor](#)
- [Breaker](#)
- [Google Podcast](#)
- [Pocket Casts](#)
- [Radio Public](#)

History of RetireSafe

Washington, D.C., April 26th, 2021 -- Join us in celebrating the 30th anniversary of RetireSafe!

RetireSafe has always been focused on issues impacting older Americans and have supported and will continue to support those in Washington who stand with us, regardless of their party affiliation.

1991 - The Council for Government Reform was established.

2003 - RetireSafe grew out of the Council for Government Reform to focus itself on senior advocacy, rather than government reform.

2009 - RetireSafe criticized AARP for supporting the plan that would cut \$600 billion or more from Medicare.

2010 - RetireSafe celebrated U.S. Representatives for introducing H.R. 5305, the CPI for Seniors Act. H.R. 5305.

2013 - RetireSafe board members traveled the country to recognize and appreciate over 50 congress people with the "Standing Up For America's Seniors" award related specifically to Medicare Part D

2014 - After realizing that it was no longer effective, RetireSafe board members transitioned the organization out of direct mail funding and into partnerships.

2016 - The RetireSafe board sat on the MACC Task Force panel educating more than 60 congressional staffers for 3rd party organizations on poll data regarding the proposed Medicare Advantage cuts.

2017 - RetireSafe sent a letter opposing a major bill in Nevada, concerned the price controls on diabetes medication could in turn threaten access to medications.

2019 - RetireSafe conducted a poll of more than 1100 mature Americans who identify as concerned about healthcare during retirement.

2019 - RetireSafe CEO Mark Gibbons spoke to the CDC on the importance of all vaccines for seniors, not only the COVID-19 vaccine.

2020 - RetireSafe, along with more than 80 partners joined the Alliance for Aging Research on its work of the COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project.

2021 - RetireSafe signed onto a letter among other advocacy groups urging President Joe Biden to maintain focus on kidney cancer throughout his term.