

THE SENIOR SCOOP



Preamble by Mark Gibbons, President/CEO of RetireSafe

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you have a wonderful 2025. There are a lot of changes happening this year. One party has control of the House, Senate and Presidency. Additionally, the out-of-pocket cap for Part D Medicare drugs went into effect on January 1, 2025. If needed, one may opt into the Prescription Payment Plan to help spread out the cap of \$2,000 over the year. In December, our board identified four areas that we will focus on this year: Medicare, Social Security, Senior Health and Aging in Place. Read more about our goals in this issue of our newsletter, The Senior Scoop!

Mark Gibbons

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RetireSafe

RetireSafe and Medicare

Medicare continues to be a core pillar of RetireSafe's mission. The integrity and viability of Medicare are of critical importance to millions of elderly Americans. We are encouraging implementation of fiscal policies to ensure Medicare's solvency indefinitely. Medicare plans are essential for seniors to access their medications. Government price controls will undermine these key programs and lead to fewer treatment options for beneficiaries. Improvements to the oversight of Medicare in order to reduce the \$60 billion lost annually to fraud and waste needs to become a priority.

RetireSafe and Social Security

Living on a fixed income based on Social Security benefits is a hardship many seniors face. We advocate for the creation of new funding streams to ensure the solvency of Social Security. RetireSafe would like to see a change to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) formula from CPI-W (Wage Earner) to CPI-E (Elderly) to provide a more accurate reading on everyday costs for seniors.

Senior Health

Senior Health has always been a main concern for RetireSafe. We have lumped a lot of different areas together and have called it Senior Health. We continue to advocate for access to primary and specialty healthcare providers to include mental health professionals, as well as continued access to vaccinations such as RSV, COVID, Flu, Pneumococcal, Shingles, and more. With discussions of pending Medicare cuts, we are concerned about availability to diagnostic laboratory testing. Affordable drug pricing is a main focus of our advocacy, but our efforts also include expanded use of telehealth and regulation of step therapy.

Aging in Place

A new area for RetireSafe is “Aging In Place” - the new buzz phrase on the Hill. Our efforts are directed towards fighting legislation that deters seniors from staying in their homes. One example is CMS’ proposal to cut home health agencies’ Medicare reimbursements by 2.2%. RetireSafe would like to see an increase in the number of hours skilled nursing care can be provided in the home of Medicare beneficiaries.

Aging in Place (cont.)

We would also encourage Congress to create tax incentives for seniors to live in their homes as long as possible, by allowing home modifications to count as a tax incentive. We are also encouraging seniors to incorporate technology into their homes to aid in living safely and comfortably in their home.

Announcements

RetireSafe's Board of Directors has announced that they are seeking new board members. More information can be found on our website, [here](#). If you would like to volunteer from your state to help us address issues that are important to seniors, please feel free to contact Mark Gibbons at mark@retiresafe.org.

Beginning in February, we will be adding a new section to our website called "Did You Know?" – this will be helpful information that will be updated monthly.

THANKS FOR READING!

Is there something we need to report on?
Let us know!

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We want to hear from YOU!

What is the biggest event that has happened in your life? Email your experience to info@retiresafe.org for a chance to be featured in one of our newsletters!

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