

THE Senior SCOOP

Presented by
RetireSafe



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WELCOME

We have just ten more yards until we cross the finish line! Many states are lifting all COVID-19 restrictions beginning July 1st! July 4th will have a new meaning to many of us as we can begin to adapt to the new normal. With all of this being said, we are not quite out of the woods – Flu Season is coming! Please remember that your annual vaccinations are very important.

Activity is picking up on the Hill and over the next couple of weeks we should be able to visit legislators office and lobby on your behalf. We are monitoring many issues and in this newsletter and you will see some of those highlighted.

Mark Gibbons
President/CEO
RetireSafe

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Current Issues and Legislation

Surprise Billing: This article examines details of the No surprises Act, which was passed as part of the Omnibus spending bill H.R. 133 on December 27th 2020. The No Surprises Act will be federally enacted on January 1st 2022 and will resolve concerns involving Surprise medical billing.

<https://www.brookings.edu>

Immunization: This article discusses how 1.6 million at-risk seniors are homebound and as a resolution to this issue medicare is expanding its coverage of the cost for at-home covid-19 vaccinations. Medicare will increase its payment coverage by an extra \$35 for dose, which means it now covers up to \$75 per dose. That is a total of \$150 cost coverage to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

<https://homehealthcarenews.com>

H.R.3: Is a bill introduced in the 116th Congress that looks to put a cap on medicare part D drug costs. This bill is risking the future of innovative medicine. Read the article below for more information!

<https://www.statnews.com>

Cost of living adjustment: This year's social security cost-of-living adjustment is not keeping up with the monthly expenses of its recipients. Social Security needs to do more to keep up with the increasing cost-of-living for seniors.

<https://www.cnbc.com>

Scams!

"I Care A Lot" is a popular movie released in 2020 showing a dramatized version of how scams are affecting older citizens. The staff at RetireSafe recommends watching the movie and reading the resources below to better protect yourselves and others from scam artists!

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com>

<https://www.kokomotribune.com>

WHY DO
SCAMMERS
TARGET
SENIORS?



- PEOPLE 50 AND OLDER HOLD 83% OF THE WEALTH IN AMERICA
- OLDER AMERICANS MAY BELIEVE IT IS IMPOLITE TO HANG UP THE PHONE ON SOMEONE, AND FRAUDSTERS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCONNECT.
- HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY PEOPLE IN THEIR 70S HAVE THE HIGHEST MEDIAN NET WORTH.

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Helping the Seniors' Future

Medicare/International Price Index: This article examines the effect of the international price index on Medicare. After reading this article it is evident that higher prices are causing issues with parts A and D for example of Medicare.

<https://www.statnews.com>

Telehealth: Data dive: Digital health making a surprising impact for older patients. Here's an interesting article on how the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the number of older patients adapting to the use of telehealth! This growth has allowed older adults to take advantage of technology to access healthcare from the safety of their own homes.

<https://www.healthevolution.com>

Medicaid: Expanding health equity through Covid-driven state Medicaid legislation. State Health departments are working on increasing health equity by expanding Medicaid. One in five Americans say they're unable to afford healthcare, and this article talks about what is currently happening involving this issue. Read the article below to keep up to date on the initiatives being taken towards Medicaid expansion!

<https://medcitynews.com>

Immunizations: Elderly Covid Cases And Deaths Plunged In U.S. This Year — CDC Says It's Due To Vaccines. According to the CDC, their study shows a dramatic decrease in senior Covid cases and deaths since more and more people have become fully vaccinated. This article provides key facts and data to support their findings. Read the article below to learn more about it!

<https://www.forbes.com>

Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. As many may know, Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. Currently ranked as the sixth leading cause of death, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and this number is projected to rise. For now, there is no cure, but being aware of the signs and symptoms can help us help those with Alzheimer's Disease. This page to the Alzheimer's Association provides more information on what the disease is, signs and symptoms, and ways to get involved. For those who have Alzheimer's or have a loved one with Alzheimer's, we can find help, support, and more ways to take action against this fight. At RetireSafe we want to do our part by supporting and raising awareness for those impacted by Alzheimer's Disease.

<https://www.alz.org/>

Survey - Your Mental Health

These questions are meant to understand how seniors view mental health. Some may not even be aware their mental health got worse just due to the lack of awareness available. These questions will help us further understand how the pandemic impacted seniors.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2Z8VNLZ>

