**Protect Our Care Talking Points and LTEs: OLDER ADULTS**

**The AARP, which represents 38 million older adults,** [**opposes the repeal bill**](http://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2017/aarp-opposes-healthcare-bill.html)**:** *“On top of the hefty premium increase for consumers, big drug companies and other special interests get a sweetheart deal.”*

**Older adults will pay much more for their health coverage.**

* The repeal bill lets insurance companies charge people over 60 years old as much as five times more what they charge others for the same coverage - a significant hike from today’s costs.
* It also reduces the tax credits that are available to help people pay for coverage, does not base the tax credits on income, and eliminates other assistance to help working families reduce out-of-pocket costs currently available in the Affordable Care Act.
* This is nothing more than an age tax. The AARP estimates that premiums could go up by [as much as $8,400](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/politics/advocacy/2017/03/aarp-letter-to-congress-on-american-healthcare-act-march-07-2017.pdf) for a 64 year old who makes less than $20,000 under the House Republican proposal.

**Millions of people between the ages of 50 and 64 could lose their health coverage.**

* The big premium hikes and tax credit reductions will result in many of the 6.1 million people between the ages of 50 and 64 no longer being able to afford coverage. The [Commonwealth Fund](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2016/aug/the-high-cost-of-charging-older-people-much-higher-premiums) estimated as many as 400,000 people would drop their coverage altogether because of the age tax.

**Medicare is at risk because of the additional tax breaks for the wealthiest.**

* The repeal bill gives families making over $250,000 an additional tax cut which [experts estimate](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2016/12/19/paying-for-an-aca-replacement-becomes-near-impossible-if-the-laws-tax-increases-are-repealed/) will cause the Medicare Trust Fund to expire years earlier - putting seniors’ care in jeopardy.
* In fact, a millionaire will get an additional [$50,000 tax break](http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/house-republicans-aca-repeal-plan-would-mean-big-tax-cuts-for-wealthy-insurers).

**Millions of seniors in nursing homes or receiving other long term care could lose their care.**

* Medicaid helps pay the costs for the long term care for about [6.9 million seniors](https://www.ncoa.org/blog/importance-medicaid-low-income-seniors/) nationwide - and more than [60% of all nursing home residents](http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/policy-basics-introduction-to-medicaid) - and plays a key role in helping families afford quality nursing home care for their elderly parents and family members with disabilities.
* The Republican repeal bill will slash Medicaid funding - shifting costs to states - and putting in jeopardy seniors care and making it much more costly for families to find long-term care for elderly parents or children with severe disabilities.

**DIGITAL CONTENT**

**Sample Tweets:**

* Congress' new health care bill could raise premiums by $2K-3K per year for seniors. It's effectively an age tax #ThisIsntCare.
* Congress' new health care bill rips apart #Medicaid & raises costs for millions of seniors, putting coverage out of reach. #ProtectOurCare

**Sample Facebook Post:**

* Congress’ new health care bill puts millions of seniors at risk by ripping apart Medicaid and allowing insurers to charge them higher prices. Call Congress now: <http://bit.ly/2muLLFS>

**AFSCME Video to share:**

In a powerful new video, retired social worker Patricia Byrd explains how repealing the Affordable Care Act will hurt her family. Her son may be one of the millions who lose their coverage under Paul Ryan’s inadequate replacement plan. Share Patricia’s story and call 1-888-851-1916 to tell Congress: STOP the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

* <https://www.facebook.com/AFSCME/videos/10154415978073061/>
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