

November 10, 2009

SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH REFORM WARNING:

Congress is considering health care regulations, taxes and budget cuts that may be hazardous to your health.

The House of Representatives recently passed health reform legislation that would erode the quality of care seniors receive under Medicare. The House bill, which narrowly passed by a vote of 220-215, contains the following provisions:

- \$500 billion in overall budget cuts for Medicare.
- \$170 billion in budget cuts for Medicare Advantage—the program’s entire budget—leaving 12 million American seniors with fewer health care options.
- \$1.2 trillion in increased health care spending, expanding the overall demand for medical services and, as a result, increasing the amount of time seniors must wait for care.
- A 20% cut in reimbursement rates for doctors who accept Medicare, forcing doctors to take on more patients and spend less time with each person in their care, or to quit taking Medicare patients altogether.
- States must pay \$34 billion for the new federal health care program, as required by the new federal health care law, before they are allowed to fund discretionary state-provided senior care—in some cases, putting state-based senior programs on the budgetary chopping block.

AARP: Cutting Medicare

The AARP endorsed the House legislation to cut funding for senior citizens. Why? You decide.

The Fight is Not Over

Although the House of Representatives already passed their bill to cut Medicare and regulate health care, the fight has now moved to the Senate where Majority Leader Harry Reid is refining legislation that will need 60 votes to pass in the Senate. Several senators are already very skeptical about the House-passed bill (one senator said the House bill was “dead on arrival” in the Senate). Nevertheless, the fight is not over. Senators will be considering their version of health reform legislation over the next few weeks and we are determined to educate and inform them about the hazards posed by these new regulations, taxes and budget cuts. Quite literally, these new health care regulations, taxes and budget cuts may be hazardous to your health!

The National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) Is Fighting for You

If you’re looking for your last line of defense in this public policy battle, you’ve found it. At the National Center for Policy Analysis, we’re fighting for you and the health care you deserve. Whether you’ve known us since our beginning in 1983 or are just finding out the work we do on your behalf, it’s never too late to join us in this fight. To join us, click on <https://secure.ncpa.org/support2/>.