

# Health & Wellness: Senior Health

## Policy Prescriptions: Clinton and Trump on Health Care

Clinton promises to allow Americans as young as 55 buy into Medicare; Trump promised not to repeal it, but wants to repeal ACA

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton has been involved in the nation's health care debate for more than 20 years and, as her campaign likes to say, she has the scars to prove it.

The Democratic presidential candidate failed in her 1990s effort to steer her husband's universal coverage program through Congress, as the complex plan collapsed for lack of political support.

Since then, she has tacked sometimes to the

right on health care, and sometimes to the left.

Clinton is campaigning as the candidate of continuity and would leave all major health care programs in place. She has a long list of tweaks and adjustments that reflect her familiarity with policy and would expand the government's role in health care.

Donald Trump calls President Barack Obama's health care law "a disaster," and vows to repeal it.

He'd provide a new tax deduction for health insurance premiums, but also limit federal support for Medicaid, which cov-



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

### Pancake Breakfast

On Oct. 22 Commissioner Loretta Smith, Senator Ron Wyden, the Urban League of Portland, Black Women for Peace and more than 100 local seniors took part in a free senior pancake breakfast. The event, at the Urban League's Multicultural Senior Center, included a presentation by Black Women for Peace, and an opportunity to ask elected leaders about important local and national issues. The event also addressed the issue of food insecurity among seniors, particularly those living in isolation.

ers low-income people. An independent analysis recently estimated his seven-point plan would cause 20 million people

to lose coverage. Trump's ideas on health care have shifted over time, and his latest plan hews to basic GOP

talking points. Here is a summary of their proposals:

#### MEDICARE

The government's premier health insurance program covers about 57 million people, including 48 million seniors and 9 million disabled people under age 65. It enjoys strong support from voters across the political spectrum, although its long-term financial outlook is uncertain.

**CLINTON:** She would authorize Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, and she supports allowing patients to import lower-cost prescriptions from abroad. Medicare beneficiaries represent a big share of the market for medications.

Clinton would also allow people ages 55-64 to buy into Medicare, although her campaign has not released much detail on how that would work.

**TRUMP:** He promises not to cut Medicare, and has suggested that other Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan made a political mistake by calling for major changes.

But it remains unclear how Trump's proposed repeal of "Obamacare" would affect its improvements to Medicare benefits, including closing the prescription drug coverage gap known as the "doughnut hole."

Earlier, Trump spoke approvingly of giving Medicare legal authority to negotiate prescription drug prices, but that idea currently is not mentioned in his health care plan. Instead, he also supports allowing drug

importation.

#### MEDICAID

The federal-state program for low-income individuals covers more than 70 million people, from pregnant women and children to elderly nursing home residents. Under Obama's health care law, states can expand the program to include more low-income adults. Medicaid has sometimes carried a social stigma, but polls show the program has a solid base of public support.

**CLINTON:** She'd work to expand Medicaid in the 19 states that have yet to take advantage of the health law. She's proposing three years of full federal funding for those states, the same deal given to states that embraced the law right away.

**TRUMP:** In 2015 Trump told an interviewer: "I'm not going to cut Social Security like every other Republican. And I'm not going to cut Medicare or Medicaid. Every other Republican's going to cut."

But his campaign plan would convert Medicaid into a block grant, ending the open-ended federal entitlement and capping funding from Washington. Over time, such an approach is likely to result in a big cut.

#### PRIVATE INSURANCE

About 177 million people under age 65 have private health insurance, with nearly 9 in 10 getting their coverage through an employer. Rising out-of-pocket costs such as insurance deductibles and copayments are a sore point

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Save the Date!

Saturday,  
October 29, 2016  
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Featuring  
**Ashton Applewhite**,  
author  
of *This Chair Rocks:  
A Manifesto  
Against  
Ageism*

## 2016 Aging Well Conference

Concordia University  
Portland, Oregon

Free to the public.  
Refreshments provided

The Aging Well Conference is  
part of the Age-Friendly Portland  
& Multnomah County Initiatives:  
Building a Community for All Ages

### 2016 Aging Well Conference

## Building a Community for All Ages

Join us for a day of connecting, learning, and exploring issues that matter to you! This year in addition to a great line up of local speakers we are excited to have as Ashton Applewhite, author of acclaimed book *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism* as our conference keynote speaker.

Get inspired! Participate in workshops and activities designed to stir your creativity, refresh your spirit, and empower you!

#### Topics include:

- Taking Action Against Ageism
- Safe at Home
- Encore Entrepreneurs
- Open Notes: Toward a New Standard of Care
- Community Health Workers and You
- Movement for Health
- Wellness and Aging
- Finding Resources for Yourself or Loved Ones
- Disrupting Ageism
- And more....

**DATE:** October 29, 2016

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Registration opens at 9:30, refreshments provided.

**PLACE:** Concordia University (Luther Hall)  
2811 NE Holman St, Portland, OR 97211

**RSVP:** This is a free community event, but space is limited and registration is required. Register online <http://bit.ly/agingwellpdx2016> or call toll free 1-877-926-8300

