

Celebrate Progress

July 30, 2021

Keep These Programs Strong,
Make them Better....Pass them Along


Celebrate Anniversaries and Commit to Improvements

July 26 – Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

July 30 – Medicare and Medicaid (1965)

Aug. 14 – Social Security Act (1935)

This powerpoint is available at www.nysenior.org



July 26 – Americans with Disabilities Act
(1990)

Celebrate Progress

Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act July 26th, 1990





On Disability Rights

New Yorkers of all ages would benefit from full implementation of the ADA.



Advocacy Action

Disability Rights

- Include in Budget negotiations all provisions of the Better Care Better Jobs Act (H.R. 4131 / S. 2210, expanding access to home and community-based supports and services.)
- Protect voting rights for people with disabilities.
- Bring the ADA into the 21st century by establishing and enforcing regulations around website accessibility and access to other virtual spaces.



July 30 – Medicare and Medicaid
(1965)

Celebrate Progress

Lyndon B. Johnson signs
Medicare & Medicaid into law in
1965 as part of the Social
Security Amendments of 1965.

July 30th **1965**

A black and white photograph of President Lyndon B. Johnson seated at a desk, signing a document. He is wearing a dark suit and tie. To his right, a woman in a light-colored dress and glasses stands with her arms crossed, looking on. Behind them, several other men in suits are visible, some standing and some seated. The background features heavy curtains and a portion of the American flag.



On Medicare

1/5

3.7 million New Yorkers are enrolled in Medicare.

86% are age 65 and older

14% are <65, living with disabilities

That's about one-fifth of all New York residents.



Advocacy Action

Medicare

- Medicare negotiation of drug prices (as per HR3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act); improvements needed: prices should be negotiated for ALL drugs, not just the most expensive and/or the ones most commonly used.
 - Limit how much drug prices can increase every year.
 - Limit the introductory price of new drugs and devices coming on the market.
- Add dental, vision, and hearing benefits to Part B.
- Cap the annual amount of out-of-pocket costs for Parts A, B, and D.
- Lower the eligibility age to 55 or 60.
- Open up Medicare as a “public option” on the ACA marketplaces and for unions and employers.



On Medicaid

$\frac{1}{3}$

7 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages are enrolled in Medicaid and rely on its benefits for access to health care.

That is more than one-third of all New York residents.



Advocacy Action

Medicaid

- Close the Medicaid coverage gap in other states that haven't expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act
- Enact 12-months continuous eligibility for all
- Expand coverage to ALL low-income legal immigrants by lifting the 5-year ban on eligibility
- Make Child Health Insurance (CHIP) permanent & not subject to periodic reauthorization & refunding debates in Congress
- Provide permanent funding for recruitment & retention of Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) workforce
- Make all current services mandatory that are currently deemed "optional" for states to provide.



Aug. 14 – Social Security Act
(1935)

Celebrate Progress

August 14, 1935 –
As part of the New Deal, FDR





On Social Security



Over 3.6 million New Yorkers of all ages receive Social Security benefits

- > 2,750,000 are retirees and their spouses
- > 477,500 are disabled workers
- > 200,000 are surviving parents or widow(er)s
- > 225,000 are children



Advocacy Action

Social Security
Improvements

Modernize and Improve Social Security by

- Increasing the minimum benefit
- Ensure the system remains solvent for the rest of the century by eliminating the annual income cap subject to FICA taxes.

Oppose the Time to Rescue United States' Trusts (TRUST) Act

S1295 by Senator Romney/HR2575 by Rep. Gallagher



On Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

653,820 New Yorkers benefit from Supplemental
Security Income



Advocacy Action

SSI Restoration Act

Modernize and Improve SSI by

- setting the minimum benefit at 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- increasing the amount of savings allowed from \$2,000 to \$10,000 single/\$20,000 couple
- eliminating the marriage penalty
- increasing the other unearned income and earned income amounts that can be received without being penalized

The background of the slide features a dark, night-time scene. In the upper half, the silhouettes of palm trees are visible against a dark sky. In the lower half, a large, bright firework is exploding, creating a starburst pattern of light rays in shades of yellow, orange, and white. The overall mood is celebratory and festive.

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Commit to Improvements

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

Medicare and Medicaid (1965)

Social Security Act (1935)

What's Happening in Congress to "Make Them Better!"

This Summer, Congress is crafting a Budget Resolution that will be a blueprint for specific budget bills that will be written in the Fall.

Only 2 more weeks to go!



**HAPPENING
NOW**

What's on the table so far:

- “Better Care and Better Jobs Act” to expand home & community-based long-term care
- Improving the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to make coverage more affordable
- “Closing the Coverage Gap” for low-income people & families who live in states that have not expanded Medicaid under the ACA.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage for post-partum low-income women up to 1 year.
- Requiring Medicare to negotiate drug prices with drug companies.
- Capping annual drug price increases, and the introductory prices for new drugs.
- Adding dental, vision, and hearing services to Medicare.
- Capping annual out-of-pocket costs for people on Medicare.

NONE of the above will be possible without:

- “Tax Fairness” bills to require large corporations and the ultra-rich to “pay their fair share”

Our job: Keep these ideas on the table, and make sure they get into the Budget Resolution.

What's not on the table yet:

- Requiring Medicaid recertification only once a year
- Ending the 5-year ban for low-income legal immigrants to qualify for Medicaid
- Making the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent
- Making all Medicaid “optional services” mandatory
- Lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 55 or 60.
- Opening up Medicare as a “public option” for individuals, families, employers, and unions.
- Increasing the minimum monthly benefit for Social Security and for SSI.

Our job: Get these ideas on the table and into the Budget Resolution.

Next up this Fall:

- Congress will be writing the specific budget bills to make all of these ideas actually happen, and passing these bills before the end of the year.
- Expect a Legislative fight over raising the debt ceiling. Republicans will try to force cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and SNAP (Food Stamps) as part of the deal. *Our job: STOP THIS!*

We're counting on YOU

To get the latest advocacy steps & join with others:

• **Every Weds at 12 Noon** - Join in our New York State Health Care for America weekly zoom meetings with groups across the state involved in Health Care and Social Safety net advocacy.

Get Weekly updates on what is happening in Washington DC .

Help Plan Strategies and Advocacy Actions in your regions. Set up Meetings with Federal representatives.

Contact Mary Clark to get on the email list cabing@citizenactionny.org

- Citizen Action NY - www.cit.ac/federalaction
- Healthcare Education Project – healthcareeducationproject.org
- Health Foundation of Western & Central NY - hfwcny.org
- Medicaid Matters NY – medicaidmattersny.org
- MetroNY Health Care Campaign - metrohealth@igc.org
- NY Association on Independent Living - ilny.us
- NY StateWide Senior Action Council – nysenior.org
- NYS Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans - nystate.retiredamericans.org



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Time to Celebrate

- Americans With Disabilities Act
- Medicare & Medicaid
- Social Security Act

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Strong, Make them
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Pass them Along



COUNT
ME IN

