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REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL END MEDICARE, FORCE OKLAHOMA SENIORS TO PAY $5,940 MORE FOR HEALTH CARE AND COST OKLAHOMA AT LEAST 22,700 PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS

From Day One, Republicans' Reckless Plan Will Also Force Millions of Seniors to Pay More for Prescription Drugs

The Republican budget will end Medicare and put insurance company bureaucrats between seniors and their doctors. Their budget provides a windfall of trillions to the health insurance industry, paid for on the backs of seniors - it would force Oklahoma seniors to pay $5,940 more in out-of-pocket expenses for health care in the first year alone – more than double the cost under current law. Republicans falsely claim that today's seniors will not be impacted by their reckless plan – but the fact is that starting next year, more than 61,400 Oklahoma seniors will be forced to pay $34 million more in prescription drug costs. In addition, the Republican budget slashes billions in health care for seniors through Medicaid, putting seniors at risk and costing thousands of private sector jobs. Democrats are committed to protecting and strengthening Medicare and Medicaid by cutting waste, fraud and abuse – not benefits.

- The Republican plan to end Medicare will increase out-of-pocket health care costs for a typical 65 year-old Oklahoma senior by $5,940 in 2022 – more than double the cost under current law.

- The Republican plan could force at least 13,500 Oklahoma seniors to pay over $1.4 million more for annual wellness visits in 2012.

- In Oklahoma, more than 61,400 seniors would pay $34 million more for prescription drugs in 2012 alone under the Republican plan.

- By turning Medicaid into a block grant program, the Republican plan could cost Oklahoma at least 22,700 private-sector jobs over the next five years.

- In Oklahoma, the Republican plan could cut $5.9 billion in federal health care funding for seniors and the disabled through Medicaid, including life-saving nursing home care.