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REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL END MEDICARE, FORCE SOUTH DAKOTA SENIORS TO PAY $5,852 MORE FOR HEALTH CARE AND COST SOUTH DAKOTA AT LEAST 4,400 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 South Dakota seniors to pay $5,852 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 12,800 South Dakota seniors will be forced to pay $7.2 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 South Dakota senior by $5,852 in 2022 – more than double the cost under current law.

- The Republican plan could force at least 3,000 South Dakota seniors to pay over $322,000 more for annual wellness visits in 2012.

- In South Dakota, more than 12,800 seniors would pay $7.2 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 South Dakota at least 4,400 private-sector jobs over the next five years.

- In South Dakota, the Republican plan could cut $1.1 billion in federal health care funding for seniors and the disabled through Medicaid, including life-saving nursing home care.