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REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL END MEDICARE, FORCE WEST VIRGINIA SENIORS TO PAY $6,167 MORE FOR HEALTH CARE AND COST WEST VIRGINIA AT LEAST 11,900 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 West Virginia seniors to pay $6,167 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 42,100 West Virginia seniors will be forced to pay $24 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 West Virginia senior by $6,167 in 2022 – more than double the cost under current law.

- The Republican plan could force at least 8,600 West Virginia seniors to pay over $903,000 more for annual wellness visits in 2012.

- In West Virginia, more than 42,100 seniors would pay $24 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 West Virginia at least 11,900 private-sector jobs over the next five years.

- In West Virginia, the Republican plan could cut $5 billion in federal health care funding for seniors and the disabled through Medicaid, including life-saving nursing home care.