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AARP Launches Medicare Campaign in Lead Up to President's Address to Congress

WASHINGTON, DC—AARP today launched a comprehensive campaign to protect Medicare in the face of proposals by some in Congress that would hurt hardworking Americans who have paid in to the program, their entire lives. Television and digital **ads** feature President Trump in a video clip saying, "I am going to protect and save your Social Security and your Medicare. You made a deal a long time ago."

The advertising debuts following President Trump's **announcement** that he would address a joint session of Congress at the end of February. Americans can find information about the importance of Medicare, see the new ad, and stay up to date on AARP's new campaign at aarp.org/ProtectMedicare.

Over the next few weeks, AARP staff and volunteers in all 50 states expect to meet with members of Congress to underscore the importance of Medicare to the 57 million beneficiaries and the millions of workers who now pay in on the promise of benefits later. The nationwide campaign specifically counters proposals that would increase costs and risks for seniors, and 'voucher-ize' Medicare.

In a recent **letter** to Congress, AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins said: "The average senior, with an annual income of under \$25,000 and already spending one out of every six dollars on health care, counts on Social Security for the majority of their income and on Medicare for access to affordable health coverage. We will continue to oppose changes to current law that cut benefits, increase costs, or reduce the ability of these critical programs to deliver on their benefit promises. We urge you to continue to do so as well."



AARP's Public Policy Institute also has put out new, detailed national and **state analyses** about Medicare vouchers, including **Premium Support and the Impact on Medicare Beneficiaries**. The report notes that "premium support could force people with fewer financial resources to leave traditional Medicare and enroll in less-expensive plans, with more limited benefits and restrictive provider networks."

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About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million that helps people turn their goals and dreams into 'Real Possibilities' by changing the way America defines aging. With staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and promote the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare security, financial security and personal fulfillment. AARP also advocates for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world's largest circulation magazine, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @aarp and our CEO @JoAnnJenkins on Twitter.

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Additional assets available online:  **Photos (1)**  **Video (1)**