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AARP Opposes Special Interest Health Care Bill

Legislation would weaken Medicare, hike insurance premiums on those who can least afford it, and give tax breaks to big drug companies.

WASHINGTON, DC—In a statement today AARP Executive Vice President Nancy LeMond announced AARP's opposition to the House plan that would make harmful changes to our current health care system such as shortening the life of Medicare, hiking costs for those who can least afford higher insurance premiums, risking seniors' ability to live independently, and giving tax breaks to big drug companies and health insurance companies:

"AARP opposes this legislation as introduced that would weaken Medicare, leaving the door open to a voucher program that shifts costs and risks to seniors.

"Before people even reach retirement age, big insurance companies would be allowed to charge them an age tax that adds up to thousands of dollars more per year. Older Americans need affordable health care services and prescriptions. This plan goes in the opposite direction, increasing insurance premiums for older Americans and not doing anything to lower drug costs.

"On top of the hefty premium increase for consumers, big drug companies and other special interests get a sweetheart deal.

"Finally, Medicaid cuts could impact people of all ages and put at risk the health and safety of 17.4 million children and adults with disabilities and seniors by eliminating much needed services that allow individuals to live independently in their homes and communities.

Although no one believes the current health care system is perfect, this harmful legislation would make health care less secure and less affordable."

AARP stands ready to work with both parties on legislation that puts Americans' health care first, not the special interests.

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About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

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