

Medicare Turns 50



Since 1965, Medicare has been our most successful health insurance program for Americans in retirement. It provides retirees with the ability to obtain annual health-care screenings, see a doctor and obtain prescription drugs. NYSUT and its national affiliates are leading the charge to celebrate Medicare's 50th Birthday! The anniversary presents opportunities to educate our members about this earned benefit and to mobilize them against recent congressional attempts to end Medicare's health coverage guarantees. It also presents the opportunity to reach out and ensure our message of strengthening and defending Medicare is heard. In recent years, the U.S. House has voted to adopt the Paul Ryan Budget that would drastically cut Medicare benefits, privatize the program and raise the age at which recipients will qualify to collect their benefit. NYSUT will use this opportunity to confront our elected representatives and Medicare's political foes everywhere they turn. That's exactly what we are doing.

Action Plan:

2015 NYSUT "Protect Income Security" petition: We plan to deliver thousands of signatures to Congressional offices that support us or are undecided on Paul Ryan's U.S. House budget.

Action Plan in collaboration with National Alliance for Retired Americans:

- Congressional office visits
- New York Medicare Birthday celebrations, rallies, concerts and marches
- Birthday card delivery to Congressional offices of those who are champions of Medicare and who are against Paul Ryan's U.S. House budget

Materials NYSUT, the National Alliance for Retired Americans and the Medicare Right Center will produce or distribute:

- Flier, *"What is the Difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?"* (Written by the Medicare Rights Center)
- Flier, *"Baby Boomers Need More Help with Medicare Enrollment"* (Written by Joe Baker, president, Medicare Rights Center)
- Flier, *"Consult the Medicare Experts, call the Medicare Counselor Hotline"* (Operated by the Medicare Rights Center)
- Standardized publicity materials for events and rallies
- Sample press materials; media advisories, press releases, Op-Eds
- Articles and video resources through the Kaiser Family Foundation (<http://kff.org/generations-medicare-at-50-years/>)
- Letters to the Editor, Op-Eds, and stories on how Medicare benefits our members (Medicare Turns 50 website where you can share your story at: www.Medicare50th.org)

Need more information? Contact Floyd Cameron, fcameron@nysutmail.org, 518-213-6000, ext. 6299.

*In coordination with NYSUT, American Federation of Teachers, NEA,
AFL-CIO and New York State Alliance for Retired Americans*