

Talking Points:

1. President Trump campaigned with a promise to leave Medicare and Social Security untouched. We expect him to keep that promise.

a. **Social Security – Nearly 75% of retired workers count on SS as their sole or major source of income. Supports retired, disabled and survivors and dependents.**

b. Medicare

- o *Medicare* is a huge success story, with strong support from all Americans. Premium support and other restructuring proposals to shift more costs onto beneficiaries would make health care far less affordable and accessible to seniors and people with disabilities.
- o *Do not replace with a voucher system*
- o *Do not eliminate or change MediGap policies*
- o *Begin negotiations with drug companies to lower prices (will save \$300 billion) without harming beneficiaries.*

2. Medicaid

- a. Covers 62% of all LTC costs in the US. Slashing funding will harm the most vulnerable among us including seniors and those with disabilities.
- b. The typical person covered by Medicaid is a woman, over the age of 65 living in a long term care facility.
- c. Cutting home care costs for vulnerable adults will only result in higher costs on the other end of the health care system including emergency room care and increased acute and long-term care costs.
- d. Continue to fund demonstration projects: transitions of care; community first choice programs, home care; public health programs (fall prevention, immunization). Would result in increased institutionalization, elder abuse, increased medical costs and death.
- e. Masshealth income limits are: family of 1- \$2010/month; 2 - \$2707/month. Coverage includes: doctor visits, medications, lab tests, mental health services, treatment services for substance use disorder, hospital stays, dentists, eyeglasses, and quit- smoking services.