

Senior Issues Committee

The group agreed to resist passage of the American Health Care Act in the Senate by contacting Senator Cory Gardner to encourage him to reject the AHCA and work toward a bipartisan plan for health care legislation in the Senate. It was also recommended that committee members contact Representative Scott Tifton and register their disappointment that he voted in favor of the AHCA. Members of the committee attended the demonstration in Cortez.

Education within the group:

Social Security - Jim Newman provided us with an overview of the Value Added Tax plan. The Social Security payroll tax of 12.4%, shared between employer and employee, would be discontinued in favor of the VAT.

This would:

Shift tax responsibilities from companies to the workers.
Force the poor and middle class to pay a greater percentage of their incomes.
Eliminate the guarantee of Social Security payments as a right paid for by their payroll taxes.

Medicare – Cheryl Clement provided us with Paul Ryan's assault on Medicare, which would replace an efficient program featuring rock-bottom administrative costs with a privatized program with federal vouchers.

The value of vouchers would rise more slowly than healthcare private insurance inflation.
By 2022, healthcare spending would consume half of the typical 65-year old's Social Security check.

Under Ryan's plan:

Nothing is done to rein in healthcare costs.
Total costs would rise and enrollees' share of total would soar.

HR676 Medicare for All, sponsored by Rep. Conyers would expand Medicare for everyone.

This program would be funded:

From existing sources of government funds for healthcare.
By increasing personal income taxes on top 5% of income earners.
By instituting a progressive excise tax on payroll and self-employment income.
By instituting a tax on stock and bond transactions.