



# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **David Cicilline Supports Cuts to Medicare**

Good afternoon.

Thank you for joining me today. I have a very special guest I'd like to introduce to you today, my mom, Elsa Loughlin. You may have seen her recent video featured on the Providence Journal website where she talks about her favorite – and only – son.

Obamacare cuts care to our seniors by a half trillion dollars. David Cicilline has gone on record in full support of the health care bill that passed Congress and was signed by President Obama earlier this year. I believe we need to repeal the worst aspects of this law. There are certainly some elements of this bill that should be maintained – like providing coverage for pre-existing conditions but the bill does nothing to address the rising cost of health care AND it hurts seniors.

The deep cuts to Medicare in the health care law will have its biggest impact on seniors receiving supplemental Medicare coverage, known as Medicare Advantage. In essence, David Cicilline and President Obama are cutting benefits to our seniors so they can expand coverage for younger Americans. Taking from one group to give to another is bad policy.

These changes to Medicare will put at risk 62,000 Rhode Islanders who have Medicare Advantage.

Across the country, seniors on Medicare Advantage are finding out that their health coverage is being cut, altered or canceled. Just last month 22,000 senior citizens in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine learned that they were going to have to find new health insurance when Harvard Pilgrim Health Care announced it would drop Medicare Advantage.

And listen to their reason: Lynn Bowman, vice president of customer service at Harvard Pilgrim's office in Quincy said, "We know that cuts in Medicare are being used to fund national health care reform. And we also had concerns about our ability to build a network of health care providers that would meet the needs of our seniors."

There are more than 62,000 Rhode Islanders on Medicare Advantage – that's 35% of the total Medicare population in the state. Only 8 companies have a higher percentage of seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage.

This is a critical difference between me and Mayor Cicilline. He supports a health care plan that hurts Medicare and I do not.

**The bottom line is that David Cicilline supports a health care plan that may cut benefits to one out of three Rhode Island seniors and Rhode Island's seniors have a right to know what's on the line.**