

PROTECT OUR CARE

HHS Regional Director Antrell Tyson and State Rep. Maria Cervania Highlight How the Biden-Harris Administration is Lowering Health Care Costs for North Carolinians



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Raleigh, NC – Today, HHS Regional Director Antrell Tyson and State Rep. Maria Cervania joined Protect Our Care North Carolina to mark the second anniversary of President Biden signing the Inflation Reduction Act into law and highlight the health care benefits North Carolinians are receiving through this landmark legislation. Thanks to the Biden-Harris administration and Democrats in Congress, more Americans than ever before have health insurance, the cost of insulin is capped at \$35 dollars, seniors are protected from drug company price hikes, and seniors' prescription drug costs will be capped at \$2,000 dollars per year starting next year. For the first time in history, Medicare is negotiating prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies to lower costs for seniors. Today, the Biden-Harris administration announced the new, lower prices for 10 of the highest-cost, most popular drugs taken by people on Medicare. These new prices are known as “maximum fair prices,” and are the highest prices drug companies are allowed to charge for these life-saving medications. These provisions add up to big savings for North Carolinians. Each year, 56, 921 North

Carolinians will save \$449 annually from the insulin price cap, 361,034 North Carolina seniors will save over \$400 through the free vaccination program, and over 1 million North Carolinians will save on necessary prescriptions through Medicare negotiations.

At the same time, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are working to put health benefits on the chopping block, ripping away care and raising prices for North Carolinians while giving tax breaks to drug and insurance companies. If they get their way, they'll slash critical funding for Medicare and Medicaid, repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, erode access to reproductive health care, and put drug and insurance companies back in control, letting them charge outrageous prices for prescriptions North Carolinians need to stay healthy. The contrast between the Biden-Harris administration and Trump's Republican Party couldn't be clearer.

Vanessa Watson, State Director for Protect Our Care North Carolina said, "As we celebrate these milestones, it is essential to remember the continued efforts of some who seek to undo these critical advances. There are those who wish to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, undermine Medicare's negotiating power, and jeopardize the Affordable Care Act. Their proposals could undo the progress we have made, imposing higher costs and reducing access to essential services."

State Representative Maria Cervania said, "There are two divergent visions for our future here. We know that this Administration has proven steadfast in wanting to reduce health care costs. Outcomes in November threaten to dismantle our health care system and possibly increase costs again for our seniors. We don't want that to happen."

Retired educator, **Haywood Watson** said, "In reflecting on these changes, it is important to recognize the broader impact they have on the quality of life for families and our senior citizens. When healthcare costs are reduced, everyone can direct their resources toward other essential areas of their lives, such as housing, food, and leisure. They can focus on enjoying their retirement years with greater peace of mind, knowing that their healthcare needs are being addressed in a more affordable manner. As a retired educator, I have always believed in the power of systemic change to improve lives. The Inflation Reduction Act is a testament to this belief, demonstrating that thoughtful and compassionate policy can make a tangible difference. It is a reminder that as a society, we must continue to advocate for and support legislation that prioritizes the well-being of Americans."

On the newly released prices negotiated for Medicare, **HHS Regional Director Antrell Tyson** said, "It means cold hard cash remaining in the pockets of seniors. This Administration was able to negotiate up to an 80 percent discount on many of the drugs that were on the list. That is savings that seniors are going to be able to keep. We estimate that to be over \$1.5 billion that seniors will be able to keep once these prices go into effect. When we're thinking of seniors, we think about our residents who have fixed income. Any dollar that we can help them save is life saving. We're talking about saving money and changing lives."

You can watch the full event [here](#), and learn more about the MAGA Republican attacks on affordable health care [here](#).