PROTECT OUR CARE

HHS Southwest Regional Director Highlights How the Biden-Harris Administration is Lowering Health Care Costs for Arizonans



Watch the event here

PHOENIX, AZ – Today, Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso, HHS Southwest Regional Director, joined Protect Our Care Arizona with leaders and advocates to mark the second anniversary of President Biden signing the Inflation Reduction Act into law and highlight the health care benefits Arizonans are receiving through this landmark legislation. Thanks to the Biden-Harris administration, 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. These provisions add up to big savings for Arizonans.

"It's an honor to be part of the Biden-Harris administration who has made great strides in reducing health care costs since entering office in 2021 by working day-in and day-out for the American people," **said Dr. Reynoso.** "The Inflation Reduction Act, or the new Lower Costs Prescription Drug Law, is one of the most consequential health care laws since the Affordable Care Act and is delivering lower prescription drug costs, making health insurance more affordable, and making the economy work better. This week the Inflation Reduction Act turns two years old and it's already working for the people of Arizona."

"In my work with Vets Forward we know that veterans and military families also have their own challenges with health care," said Aaron Marquez, executive director of Vets Forward. "There is a misconception that all veterans just get their health care at the VA. Certainly veterans over 65 can combine their VA health insurance with Medicare coverage, but also for younger veterans that are no longer covered by Tri Care. It was one of the biggest challenges that I faced when I came home from Afghanistan and had a break in service; I was no longer covered by Tri Care, was how to afford health care for me and my family. These benefits from the IRA benefit young vets trying to cover their spouses and children and certainly for seniors combining their benefits with Medicare."

"The Inflation Reduction Act has already saved me thousands," **said Doug Hart, former President of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans.** "And it's going to save me thousands more. It's going to save thousands for millions of other seniors throughout the country, certainly hundreds of thousands of seniors throughout Arizona."

"In 2021 when the Biden-Harris administration was trying to get Americans through the pandemic, they passed enhanced subsidies to help folks better afford ACA marketplace coverage," **said Les Braswell, Honest Arizona.** "That was particularly helpful to folks in states that had not yet expanded Medicaid. Again, when they passed the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, they extended those cost saving subsidies through next year, 2025. As a result the ACA has never been more popular and we encourage Congress to prioritize extending those subsidies so that more Americans can afford a marketplace plan going forward."

You can watch the full event here.

###