

# National Journal

## **DPA Statement: Congressman Hutchinson Campaigns with Architect of Plan to Turn Medicare into a Voucher Program**

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Today, Congressman Hutchinson is campaigning with Congressman Paul Ryan, the architect of Republican budgets that would turn Medicare into a voucher program and end the security of its guaranteed benefits for hundreds of thousands of Arkansas seniors.

Congressman Hutchinson and Congressman Ryan both favor privatizing social security. Congressman Hutchinson urged a Presidential commission to include privatizing Social Security as part of any plan to reform the program and Congressman Ryan wrote in his own book about his desire for Americans "to place a generous portion of their Social Security taxes into a personal retirement account that Social Security would invest in the market."

Democratic Party of Arkansas Chair Vincent Insalaco released the following statement on Congressman Hutchinson campaigning with Congressman Paul Ryan in Benton today:

"Congressman Hutchinson and Congressman Ryan are of one mind when it comes to privatizing Social Security and undermining the security that hundreds of thousands of seniors in Arkansas rely on in their retirement. Congressman Hutchinson supported efforts to privatize Social Security when he was in Congress and Paul Ryan has written extensively on his desire to risk Social Security benefits on the stock market. Arkansas seniors are right to be concerned that Congressman Hutchinson would tout the support of the person responsible for Republican budgets that would turn Medicare into a voucher and end the promise of Medicare's guaranteed benefits."

Paul Ryan's 2012 budget proposal "would essentially end Medicare," which pays "most of the health-care bills for 48 million elderly and disabled Americans." "The budget has been prepared by Rep. Paul Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican and the new chairman of the House Budget Committee... would essentially end Medicare, which now pays most of the health-care bills for 48 million elderly and disabled Americans, as a program that directly pays those bills. Mr. Ryan and other conservatives say this is necessary because of the program's soaring costs." (Wall Street Journal, 04/04/11)

## PAUL RYAN REPEATEDLY TOUTED HIS PUSH FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION AND WROTE OF HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S INABILITY TO GET IT DONE

Paul Ryan Touted His Plan To Privatize Social Security As An "Opportunity To Create A Real Ownership Society" Where "Workers Could Actually Own A Piece Of The Free Enterprise System Through These Reforms." Paul Ryan on a meeting with then-Vice President Dick Cheney and members of Congress: "When it got to me, I used my two minutes to discuss Social Security. 'The surplus has given as a huge opportunity,' I explained. 'If we dedicate the Social Security surplus to reform, we can shore up the program and end the raid on the trust fund.' I talked about the opportunity to create a real ownership society, how workers could actually own a piece of the free enterprise system through these reforms. As soon as I finished my pitch, Vice President Cheney said, 'Yeah, we're not going to do that.'" [Paul Ryan, The Way Forward, 8/19/14]

Paul Ryan Said He Wanted To Reform Social Security So Americans Could Invest "A Generous Portion Of Their Social Security" In The Stock Market. "I wanted to reform Social Security in ways that would give young people the same opportunity. Instead of inheriting a stack of IOUs, Americans would be able to place a generous portion of their Social Security taxes into a personal retirement account that Social Security would invest in the market." [Paul Ryan, The Way Forward, 8/19/14]

## ASA HUTCHINSON SUPPORTS PRIVATIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

Hutchinson, In 2001, Signed A Letter Urging Support For Individual Accounts As Part Of Any Social Security Reform Plan. Asa Hutchinson, in 2001, was one of 117 members of the House of Representatives who "signed a letter urging the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security to support individual accounts as part of any Social Security reform plan. Cato Institute, "Social Security This Week," 06/04/01)

Hutchinson Was Listed In A Cato Institute Survey As Favoring "Reform That Would Allow Workers To Save A Portion Of Their Payroll Taxes In A Personal Retirement Account." In 2000, "the Cato Institute contacted all Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress and asked them - 'Do you favor or oppose Social Security reform that would allow workers to save a portion of their payroll taxes in a personal retirement account?'" Asa Hutchinson is listed in this survey as favoring "reform that would allow workers to save a portion of their payroll taxes in a personal retirement account.