

Friday, July 29, 2011

*Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District released the following statement today on the 46th anniversary of Medicare, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 30, 1965.*

“For 46 years, Medicare has contributed to the health and well-being of millions of American seniors during their golden years. It has provided older Americans with the security of knowing they will have the health care they need after a lifetime of work. Before Medicare, only 51 percent of Americans 65 and older had health care coverage. Today, thanks to Medicare, virtually all Americans 65 and older have health care coverage.

“Unfortunately, this successful program is under attack from Republicans in Congress. The House Republican budget ends Medicare as we know it, turning it into a voucher program that reduces benefits and leaves seniors to pay twice as much in out-of-pocket costs.

“Together with Social Security, Medicare has been vital to America’s seniors. Last year, we extended the solvency of Medicare through the Affordable Care Act, and I will continue my efforts to protect these important benefits while working to strengthen a program that provides health care coverage for 47 million Americans.”

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