



Medicare Expansion LTE Tips

Identifying an outlet:

- If you don't already have a newspaper in mind, google "top newspapers in [state]" to find a shortlist of potential outlets for your LTE.
- Responding to an article that's been recently published substantially increases the likelihood your LTE is selected and published.
 - Once you identify the outlet to which you'd like to submit your LTE, you can find relevant articles on their website by using terms such as "American Families Plan."

Content:

- Your opening line should reference the article to which you are responding ("I am writing in reference to the recent article about ongoing infrastructure negotiations in Congress").
 - The rest of the first paragraph should summarize why you are responding to that article.
- Use the talking points from page 1 to make your case. It can also be powerful if you have an opportunity to tie in a relevant personal story.
- State your call to action ("That's why I'm calling on Congresswoman/Senator ___ to prioritize expanding and improving Medicare in the upcoming American Families Plan").
- It is extremely important that your LTE directly name the elected official you're aiming to influence. Doing so all but guarantees that it will be read by their staff.
- Near the end of your LTE, briefly restate your argument and underline the importance of this opportunity to substantially expand and improve Medicare for millions of people.



Medicare Expansion Talking Points

Background/Basic Info:

- A number of policy proposals to expand and improve Medicare are currently being negotiated to be part of the American Families Plan, including:
 - a. Allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, therefore saving the federal government \$300B-\$478B per year which could be spent on:
 - b. Improving Medicare by including hearing, dental, and vision benefits, and establishing an out of pocket cap for Medicare beneficiaries.
 - c. Lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 60.
- While Medicare for All is the real solution we need, Congress can act now to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, lower the Medicare age, and expand to finally include dental, vision, and hearing for our seniors.

Lowering Medicare Age:

- Seniors under 65 go without needed care, retire later than they should, and [get long term illnesses diagnosed too late](#).
- While Medicare for All is the solution we need, we can start now by lowering the Medicare age. Congress can and must act now to include this expansion in the American Families Plan.

Expanding Medicare:

- Medicare currently doesn't cover hearing, vision, or dental for our seniors. Congress can and must act now to expand this needed care for seniors in the American Families Plan.
- Currently, [just half of seniors have dental insurance](#).

Negotiating Drug Prices:

- There is no reason that Medicare shouldn't be able to negotiate the lowest prescription drug prices possible for seniors. At a time when care is often needed most, seniors shouldn't have to go bankrupt for life-saving medications. Congress can and must act now to include H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, in the American Families Plan.