

**The  
BLACK  
C o M M e n t a t o r**

An independent weekly internet magazine  
dedicated to the movement for economic justice,  
social justice and peace - Providing commentary,  
analysis and investigations on issues affecting  
African Americans and the African world.

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**Cover Story**

**Why Raising the Medicare Eligibility Age**

**Is a Very Bad Idea**

**Leftward-Ho**

**By Peter Gamble**

**BlackCommentator.com Publisher**

*Note: The following is the text of a message I have sent to President Obama. I urge you to do the same using the links at the end of this commentary. Please feel free to copy any section of the text into your message. I have also sent messages to my elected representatives in the U.S. Congress containing relevant sections of the text below.*

Dear President Obama,

Please do not agree to raising the eligibility age for Medicare. Causing our brother and sister Americans to wait longer in order to receive adequate and affordable medical care would be a very bad thing to do.

Such a move would be a threat to the health of older people and cost employers and employees more.

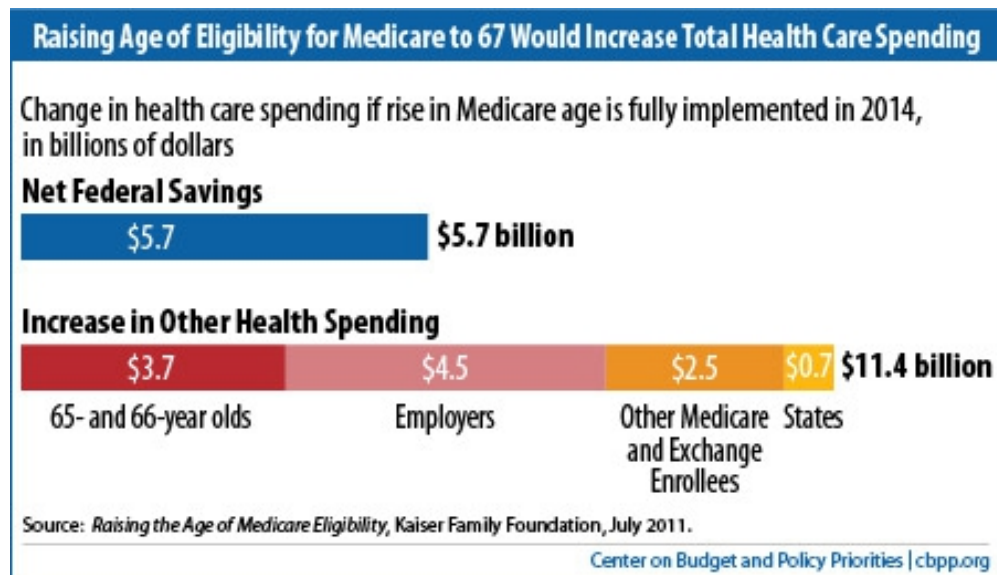
Raising the eligibility age is going in the wrong direction. We should be trying to lower the eligibility age, not raise it. What we need is Medicare for everyone.

There are countless Americans who are holding off going to the doctor because they are waiting for Medicare to kick in. In the last few weeks, I have met several people who have some health problems they can

not afford to have treated and are waiting for their 65th birthday to arrive so they can get Medicare coverage. [The Affordable Care Act](#) (Obamacare) contained some significant advances, however, there are still millions of people who either have no medical insurance or are under insured.

Increasing the eligibility age will cost employees and employers more because the moment this happens, the insurance companies will raise their rates for everyone and justify it because of the inclusion of the older demographic.

According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), raising the Medicare age from 65 to 67 would increase overall health spending and shift costs to seniors, states, and employers. It would save the federal government \$5.7 billion but cost a total of \$11.4 billion.



Think about it Mr. President. You don't want your legacy to include such a blot on your healthcare record.

Respectfully yours,

Peter Gamble  
U.S. Citizen, Registered Voter & Veteran  
Publisher, BlackCommentator.com

As usual I end this column with information BC readers can use to communicate with elected officials:

Signing petitions is good, but a personal call, letter or email is better.

For the U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>  
(enter your zip code in the upper right corner of the page)

For the U.S. Senate: <http://senate.gov/> (choose your state using the drop down menu in the upper right corner)

White House Comment Line - 202.456.1111

White House Switchboard - 202.456.1414

White House Website contact form:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

**BlackCommentator.com** Publisher and Chief Technical Officer Peter Gamble, is the recipient of a national Sigma Delta Chi award for public service in journalism and numerous other honors for excellence in reporting and investigative reporting. The "beats" he covered as a broadcast journalist ranged from activism in the streets to the State Department and White House. The lure of a personal computer on his desk inspired a career change in 1985 and an immersion into what he sees as the future of communications. The acquisition of computer programming skills made it possible for Peter to achieve an important level of self-reliance in the technology of the 21st century and to develop BlackCommentator.com. Click [here](#) to contact Peter.



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