

May 2, 2024

## RE: False Advertisement Sponsored by Restoration PAC - "Seniors"

Dear Station Manager,

We write on behalf of the DSCC regarding a false advertisement sponsored by Restoration PAC currently running on your cable network.<sup>1</sup> This advertisement blatantly lies about Senator Tammy Baldwin's record – claiming the Senator "vote[d] to cut Medicare." As Restoration PAC well knows, Senator Baldwin has never voted to cut Medicare. This false and misleading advertisement should be pulled from your network immediately.

Restoration PAC's narrator falsely asks, "Why else would Baldwin vote to cut Medicare and use that money for electric vehicle subsidies?" while including the beginning of the phrase on screen:



<u>As you can see, the advertisement does not cite to any source for this fictitious claim. Why?</u> <u>Because no source exists – Senator Baldwin never voted to "cut Medicare."</u> Instead, Senator Baldwin voted in favor of the Inflation Reduction Act (the "IRA"),<sup>2</sup> which gave Medicare the ability to negotiate the costs of some of the costliest prescription drugs, thereby reducing the cost of prescription drugs covered by Medicare, not cutting it.<sup>3</sup>

We've seen this playbook before, but never quite so brazenly. In 2022, Republicans attacked the IRA claiming it would "strip" funds from Medicare.<sup>4</sup> As countless fact checkers correctly

<sup>4</sup> See Fact check: How does the Inflation Reduction Act affect Medicare?, WRAL (Aug 8. 2022) https://www.wral.com/story/fact-check-how-does-the-inflation-reduction-act-affect-medicare/20408196/; Linda Qiu, Fact-Checking Health Claims About the Inflation Reduction Act, N.Y. Times (Aug. 19, 2022),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Seniors, Restoration PAC, LINK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> H.R. 5376, Vote #325, 8/7/22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Drug Price Negotiation, <u>https://www.cms.gov/inflation-reduction-act-and-medicare/medicare-drug-price-negotiation</u> ("Because of the prescription drug law, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare is able to negotiate directly with drug companies to improve access to some of the costliest single-source brand-name Medicare Part B and Part D drugs.").

concluded, the IRA did not "strip" funds from Medicare – instead, the IRA would result in nearly \$300 billion in savings for consumers and taxpayers, due to Medicare's ability to negotiate prescription drug pricing.<sup>5</sup> Restoration PAC's advertisement takes the IRA lie one step further – claiming that voting in favor of the IRA would simply "cut Medicare." This claim is false.

Restoration PAC either failed to do any research on the actual scope of the IRA prior to running this ad, or they were hoping you haven't seen the extensive public record detailing the bill's effects. Either way, the advertisement is false and should be removed from your network immediately.

The ad must be removed from the air immediately. Please contact us at 202-968-4666 or <u>eanspach@elias.law</u> to confirm that this ad is no longer appearing on your station.

Sincerely,

Rachel Jacobs Courtney T. Weisman Emma R. Anspach Counsel to DSCC

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/19/us/politics/fact-check-health-claims-inflation-reduction-act.html; Victoria Knight, *Ad targeting Manchin, AARP misses on Medicare drug price negotiations*, PolitiFact (July 15, 2022), https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2022/jul/25/american-commitment/ad-targeting-manchin-aarp-missesmedicare-drug-pri/.

<sup>5</sup> See Fact check: How does the Inflation Reduction Act affect Medicare? WRAL (Aug 8. 2022) https://www.wral.com/story/fact-check-how-does-the-inflation-reduction-act-affect-medicare/20408196/.