



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
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## Ramapo College to Screen Documentary Film “Medicare and Medicaid: A Fifty-Year Retrospective”

MAHWAH, N.J. – There will be a special screening of the documentary film, “Medicare and Medicaid: A fifty-Year Retrospective” on Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. in Friends Hall. The film was written and produced by Murray Sabrin, Professor of Finance at Ramapo College. The event is free and open to the public.

The film features in-depth discussions with the following:

- Laurence J. Kotlikoff, president of Economic Security Planning, Inc. and William Fairfield Warren Professor at Boston University
- David Knowlton, president and CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
- Dr. Gail Reilly, medical director of the Parker Family Health Center, Red Bank, N.J.
- Dr. Lois J. Copeland, former president of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons
- Dr. Alieta Eck, co-founder of Zarepath Health Center, Franklin, N.J.
- Dr. Gene Cheslock, founder of Parker Family Health Center, Red Bank, N.J.
- Mary Nicosia, director and clinical coordinator of Parker Family Health Center, Red Bank, N.J.

Medicare and Medicaid were created in 1965 as key components of President Johnson’s “Great Society” program. “Great Society” legislation upheld civil rights, public broadcasting, environmental protection, aid to education, the arts, urban and rural development, and Johnson’s “War on Poverty.”

Today, Medicare guarantees health insurance to Americans who are age 65 or older who have paid into the system and to younger Americans with certain disabilities or health conditions. Medicare is financed by payroll deductions and is facing significant financial challenges, with annual spending of nearly \$800 billion.

Passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, or “Obamacare”) significantly expanded the number of Americans eligible for Medicaid, in addition to the federal funding

allocated to the program. With the aging of America's population and the poor's access to health care via Medicaid uncertain, the cost of health care is a challenge for taxpayers who have to pick up the tab for an annual expense that is nearing one trillion dollars. Critics and supporters have been engaged in lively discussions about how these programs should be reformed -- or even abolished -- in order to provide better health care outcomes for the elderly and poor in the United States.

Please RSVP to [msabrin@ramapo.edu](mailto:msabrin@ramapo.edu) or call 201-684-7373. For disability-related accommodations, please call 201-684-7373.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.