

Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01) Red Box Backup – Prescription Drugs And Health Care

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND HEALTH CARE

When it comes to **prescription drugs and healthcare**, IA-01 Voters need to see on broadcast and cable in the Quad Cities, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines media markets, as well as in the mail and on OTT and digital:

- *Mariannette Miller-Meeks is beholden to Washington special interests. She's taken over \$3 million from them.*
- *Miller-Meeks blamed the rising cost of health care on Medicare, but opposed allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.*
- *Worse, Miller-Meeks wrote a radical plan that would end health care as we know it and wanted to do away with employer-based health insurance -- driving up costs on Iowa families. Miller-Meeks even wanted to raise the retirement age.*

Mariannette Miller-Meeks Is Beholden To Washington Special Interests. She's Taken Over \$3 Million From Them.

Center For Responsive Politics: Miller-Meeks Has Taken \$3,461,632 From Special Interests During Her Congressional Campaigns.

Sector	Total	Individuals	PACs
Agribusiness	\$240,898	\$153,398	\$87,500
Communications/Electronics	\$74,628	\$39,038	\$35,590
Construction	\$190,426	\$154,426	\$36,000
Defense	\$9,653	\$6,653	\$3,000
Energy & Natural Resources	\$89,518	\$41,518	\$48,000
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$653,465	\$535,965	\$117,500
Health	\$525,577	\$281,077	\$244,500
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$120,960	\$113,960	\$7,000
Transportation	\$101,258	\$77,688	\$23,570
Misc Business	\$314,118	\$258,944	\$55,174
Labor	\$1,022	\$22	\$1,000
Ideological/Single-Issue	\$1,140,109	\$183,464	\$956,645
TOTAL:	\$3,461,632		

[Center For Responsive Politics, [6/22/22](#)]

Miller-Meeks Blamed The Rising Cost Of Health Care On Medicare, But Opposed Allowing Medicare To Negotiate For Lower Drug Prices.

Miller-Meeks Blamed The Rise Of Health Care Costs On Medicare Overuse. MILLER-MEEKS: “Two words, competition and insurance. If you look at the cost of health care in the United States, the rapid rise began in 1970. And the rise in health care costs exceeded inflation. This is because Medicare was instituted in 1965. As seniors became more adept at utilizing the Medicare system to pay for care that they previously had not accessed, the cost escalated. We also know from numerous health care studies [...] show that when someone doesn't bear the cost of health care, they utilize more. So overutilization began to be the norm.” [Mariannette Miller Meeks Conversation on Health Care, 00:00:28, [9/4/09](#)] (VIDEO)

Miller-Meeks Said She Opposed Allowing Medicare To Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices.

“Republican Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks of Ottumwa says she’s opposed to having the federal government negotiate to lower the prices of prescription medicine covered by Medicare. Democrats have inserted

this proposal in a bill that may be voted upon today.” [Radio Iowa, [11/5/21](#)]

Worse, Miller-Meeks Wrote A Radical Plan That Would End Health Care As We Know It And Wanted To Do Away With Employer-Based Health Insurance -- Driving Up Costs On Iowa Families. Miller-Meeks Even Wanted To Raise The Retirement Age.

Miller-Meeks Wrote A Plan To “Repeal-And-Replace” The Affordable Care Act. “The reforms as currently outlined fail to address exploding costs, and transfers those unsustainable costs to taxpayers by empowering the government to take-over health care. This reform puts bureaucrats between doctors and patients, which will destroy the quality of health care as we know it. While there are many attractive measures contained in the health reform law like covering pre-existing conditions and extending coverage for young adults on their parent's plans, I would repeal-and-replace this law with reforms that actually reduce health care costs, increase portability while increasing accessibility. [...] In Congress, I will work to: [...] Promote guaranteed ‘renewability’ and minimize price discrimination for pre-existing conditions. The former insures that if you have a catastrophic illness, the policy premium would remain level for two years. When the basic policy premium is affordable, a mandate to purchase health insurance is not required. The law that mandates emergency rooms treat patients regardless of status, would also necessarily have to be modified which would offer people further incentives to purchase highly affordable health insurance policies.” [Miller-Meeks For Congress, Archived [11/25/10](#)]

Miller-Meeks Claimed We Should Phase Out Employer Coverage Incrementally. “We should phase out employer coverage incrementally while providing tax deductions for higher income and tax credits (pre-fund) for lower income and those with chronic pre-existing diseases. Funding such individual health plans accessed by debit cards would empower individuals, regulate the insurance industry and provide choice. We could maintain the innovative strengths of our current system, using the government to insure coverage of the needy, transparency of prices and prevention of fraud.” [Iowa City Press Citizen, Miller-Meeks Op-ed, 7/8/09]

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Increase Insurance Premiums; According To The Washington Post, “Many Would Find They Could No Longer Afford Coverage.” “The ACA, also known as Obamacare, provides subsidies to help subscribers afford the cost of individual policies. The law also required all Americans, with a few exceptions, to have insurance. Without the subsidies or the requirement that all Americans have coverage, experts say the healthiest customers would cease buying insurance if they do not have policies through their employers or through the government. As a result, insurers would be forced to increase premiums to cover the cost of treating those sicker patients who remain. Many would find they could no longer afford coverage.” [Washington Post, [12/7/16](#)]

WHO 13 Des Moines: “On Money Matters, Republican Mariannette Miller-Meeks Supports Looking At Raising The Retirement Age To Ease The Strain On The Social Security System.” “On money matters, Republican Mariannette Miller-Meeks supports looking at raising the retirement age to ease the strain on the Social Security system. Democrat Rita Hart doesn’t. Hart wants to raise the federal minimum wage but didn’t say by how much. Miller-Meeks thinks the states should determine the minimum wage. Miller-Meeks said, ‘A minimum wage is...and I started out 30 cents an hour...so a minimum wage is an entry-level. It’s not supposed to be a wage or was not meant to be a wage that is supposed to support a family.’” [WHO 13 Des Moines, [9/25/20](#)]

2014: Miller-Meeks Said Future Solutions For Benefits Could Include The Possibility Of Raising The Federal Retirement Age. “Miller-Meeks, an eye surgeon and former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, in a prior run for the seat in 2014, said for the U.S. to prevent sharp breaks in the benefit or tax levels faced by succeeding generations, solutions could include the possibility of raising the federal retirement age of 65.” [Quad-City Times, [9/16/20](#)]

2010: Miller-Meeks Supported Raising The Federal Retirement Age. “Miller-Meeks said the United States must recognize that there is a risk of backlash from young workers if they come to the conclusion they pay for the benefits and programs geared toward older Americans but will not have similar benefits after they retire. Her solution is not to cut existing benefits but to take steps to adjust the situation to prevent the costs from overwhelming the future workforce. That includes stopping the federal government from raiding accounts like the

Social Security trust fund for unrelated projects and the possibility of raising the federal retirement age. ‘We cannot keep asking more and more of younger people for programs that politicians have guaranteed for older Americans,’ Miller-Meeks said.” [Ottumwa Courier, [8/25/10](#)]

2008: Miller-Meeks Supported Raising The Retirement Age. According to a 2008 Project Vote Smart questionnaire, Miller-Meeks supported raising the retirement age for individual eligibility to receive full Social Security benefits.

● **Social Security Issues**

Indicate which principles you support (if any) regarding Social Security.

- a) Allow workers to invest a portion of their payroll tax in private accounts that they manage themselves.
- b) Ensure the viability of Social Security by increasing the payroll tax.
- c) Decrease benefits paid to retirees.
- d) Support proportional increases of Social Security benefits based on the cost of living index.
- e) Raise the retirement age for individual eligibility to receive full Social Security benefits.

f) Other or expanded principles

(c) not current

[Vote Smart, Accessed [6/22/20](#)]