



# HURAnews

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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## Drug price reductions, part II

**T**he Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) made several changes to Medicare and Medicaid in an effort to reduce drug prices. All of these policies remain in effect and will do so unless different legislation or a court decision overturns them. The current administration cannot unilaterally reverse legislation that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. Although President Trump rescinded Biden's Executive Order 14087, Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans, which directed Medicare and Medicaid agencies to research and implement models for lowering the costs of prescription drugs. Provisions in the IRA that aimed at lower prescription drug costs, are still in effect. It is unclear how reductions in staff by the administration and DOGE will affect the negotiation process in the future, however.

Starting in 2023, the IRA capped the price of insulin for people on Medicare Part D at \$35 per month and made vaccination a zero-copay procedure. It set a yearly \$2,000 cap for out-of-pocket payments on drugs

covered by Medicare and allowed anyone on Medicare Part D to opt into a monthly payment program starting in 2025.

In 2024, the government negotiated prices for ten brand-name drugs, including medications for diabetes, cancer, and arthritis. Those prices will go into effect in 2026.

According to the official Medicare website, the government will negotiate prices on more drugs each year: 15 each in 2025 and 2026, and 20 each in 2027 and 2028. Those new

prices will go into effect two years after being negotiated.

The Department of Health and Human Services selected 15 drugs for 2025 Medicare Drug Price Negotiations that will go into effect in 2027. Between November 2023 and October 2024, about 5.3 million people with Medicare Part D coverage used these drugs to treat a variety of conditions, such as cancer, type 2 diabetes, and asthma. For more information go to (<https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/prescription-drug-law>)

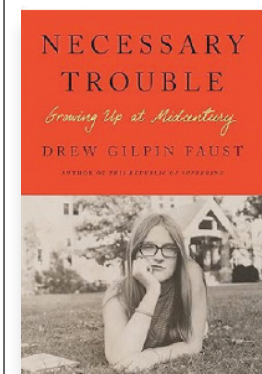
View the Drug Price Negotiations Chart on page 3.



## Drew Gilpin Faust releases memoir

**W**e are delighted that former Harvard president Drew Gilpin Faust will be the guest of honor at the Annual Meeting on June 11 and as such in conversation with HURA Board member Jamie Hoyte. Faust's 2023 book, *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury*, is a memoir of coming of age in a conservative Southern family in postwar America. The book was a *New York Times* bestseller.

To grow up in the 1950s was to enter a world of polarized national alliances, nuclear threat, and destabilized social hierarchies.



Two world wars and the depression that connected them had unleashed a torrent of expectations and dissatisfactions—not only in global affairs but in American society and Americans' lives.

As a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia, Faust was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. For Drew Gilpin, the acceptance

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# 2025 HURA Elections

The HURA Board of Directors is pleased to present the following slate for membership approval. These candidates will be voted on by members attending the HURA Annual Meeting on June 11, 2025. The positions will be in effect for three-year terms ending on June 30, 2028.

Comments and questions should be directed to Diantha Brown, nominations process facilitator (except any concerning her own reelection) at dianthabrown@verizon.net or 978-465-2262; or to John Collins at johnwcollinsIII@gmail.com or 508-243-2184.

### HURA Officer

Managing Editor, Malcolm Hamilton

### HURA Directors

Diantha Brown  
Ann Flentje  
James "Jamie" Hoyte  
Ann Marie Menting  
Beverly "Bev" Sullivan

The HURA Board has awarded Emerita status to Ann Walter in recognition of her sixteen years of exemplary service to the Association as Director and member of the editorial team on which she will continue to serve.

## COMING EVENTS

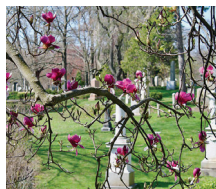
### Wednesday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.

#### Walking tour of Mount Auburn Cemetery

A National Historic Landmark, active cemetery, and public botanical garden, Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1831 as America's first "rural" cemetery.

The cemetery plays a unique, multifaceted role within Greater Boston and, from its founding, developed a reputation as a choice for burial by the region's leaders and other notable Americans, and as a place where the public is encouraged to enjoy its natural beauty. Spread over 175 acres, Mount Auburn is one of the country's most significant designed landscapes.

The Registration flyer was sent to the HURA E-list on April 23.



by John Williams, featuring his own masterful film scores and the music of composers who have inspired him.

HURA subsidized tickets in the second balcony, front for just \$37.

### Wednesday, June 11, 11:30 a.m. –

#### 2:00 p.m. Loeb House. HURA Annual Meeting

, including business meeting, election of Board members, and remarks about the association's upcoming year by HURA President John Collins.

Following lunch, special guest speaker, President Emerita of Harvard University and Arthur Kingsley Porter University Research Professor **Drew Gilpin Faust** will join a conversation with Jamie Hoyte focusing on her memoir *Necessary Trouble* and some questions about higher ed as well.



**Registration** will be via Eventbrite. The link will be emailed to the HURA E-list in late May. If you do not have email, contact Steve O'Donnell, 40 Joy Street, No. 10, Boston, MA 02114, about registering by mail.

### Saturday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

#### Symphony Hall Spring

**Pops: Lights, Camera, Music** Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops conductor, leads a program specially curated



# Drug price reductions

Continued from page 1

## DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATIONS IN 2025

Drug name	Commonly treated conditions	Part D covered cost November 2023 - October 2024	Number of Part D enrollees using the drug
Austedo; Austedo XR	chorea in Huntington's disease	\$1,531,855,000	26,000
Breo Ellipta	asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	\$1,420,971,000	634,000
Calquence	chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma	\$1,614,250,000	15,000
Ibrance	breast cancer	\$1,984,624,000	16,000
Janumet; Janumet XR	type 2 diabetes	\$1,082,464,000	243,000
Linzess	chronic idiopathic constipation, irritable bowel syndrome	\$1,937,912,000	627,000
Ofev	idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis	\$1,961,060,000	24,000
Otezla	oral ulcers in Behçet's disease, plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis	\$994,001,000	31,000
Ozempic; Rybelsus; Wegovy	type 2 diabetes, obesity/overweight, and cardiovascular disease	\$14,426,566,000	2,287,000
Pomalyst	Kaposi sarcoma, multiple myeloma	\$2,069,147,000	14,000
Tradjenta	type 2 diabetes	\$1,148,977,000	278,000
Trelegy Ellipta	asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	\$5,138,107,000	1,252,000
Vraylar	bipolar I disorder, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia	\$1,085,788,000	116,000
Xifaxan	hepatic encephalopathy, irritable bowel syndrome	\$1,128,314,000	104,000
Xtandi	prostate cancer	\$3,159,055,000	35,000

For more information go to (<https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/prescription-drug-law>)

PDF of chart at: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/factsheet-medicare-negotiation-selected-drug-list-ipay-2027.pdf>

## Drew Gilpin Faust releases memoir

Continued from page 1

of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing. Urged to become “well adjusted” and to fill the role of a poised young lady that her upbringing imposed, she found resistance was necessary for her survival. During the 1960s, through her love of learning and her active engagement in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements, Faust forged

a path of her own, one that would eventually lead her to become a historian of the very conflicts that were instrumental in shaping the world she grew up in.

Culminating in the upheavals of 1968, *Necessary Trouble* captures a time of rapid change and fierce reaction in one young woman’s life, tracing the transformations and aftershocks that we continue to grapple with today.

## Car recalls

About 27 million cars were recalled in 2024. Some were for safety issues, like a recall of **Kias** for rollaway risks or **BMW**s for fire risks. Others are recalled for less alarming reasons. Last year **Teslas** were recalled over the font size on their instrument panels. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a website that lets you search your vehicle for recalls: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>.

## IN BRIEF

### Changes to HarvardKey sign-in

Over the next year, the University will transition from Duo to Okta for identity verification when accessing HarvardKey-protected apps and services. Okta provides advanced authentication options that enhance security while simplifying the sign-in process. This transition will occur in phases, and Duo users will receive more information in the coming months.

To prepare for this transition, some changes have been made to the HarvardKey sign-in experience. Since February, an updated HarvardKey sign-in screen appears when you access a HarvardKey-protected app.

You will continue to use your existing HarvardKey username and password to sign in.

If you are a Duo two-step verification user, the first time you sign in using the updated screen, you'll be prompted to link your Duo account to Okta by accepting a standard Duo push or via your preferred Duo authentication method. You will need to do this only once.

After you link your Duo account to Okta, you will receive an email from Harvard University Information Technology with the subject line "Security method enrolled for your HarvardKey account" at both your Harvard and personal email addresses. You do not need to take any action.

Once you have linked your account, you will continue using Duo to verify your identity. This phased transition will continue through spring 2026.

If you are a Microsoft 365 user, desktop and mobile apps will be unaffected. Before the end of March users were signed out of Microsoft 365 and were prompted to sign in again. After they signed back in, they also saw the new HarvardKey sign-in screen.

Please note these changes do not apply to HBS or HMS/HSDM affiliates.

If you have questions or need help, you can contact the IT service desk at [HUIT.harvard.edu/get-help](mailto:HUIT.harvard.edu/get-help).

### Alumni Day Speaker

Atul Gawande, MD '95, MPH '99, former professor of health policy and management at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Thier Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, will be the speaker at Harvard's annual celebration of the global alumni community on June 6.

Procedure for obtaining tickets for retirees will be sent to the HURA E-list in early May.

### Harvard's lobbying expenses

Harvard spent \$620,000 lobbying the federal government in 2024—the most it has spent since 2010, as the University attempts to dissuade lawmakers from imposing a larger endowment tax and other financial penalties. The 17 percent rise in lobbying expenditures—a \$90,000 increase compared to 2023—comes on the heels of a damaging congressional investigation into Harvard's response to antisemitism on campus and recent threats from the Trump administration to revoke or review federal funding. Collectively, Ivy League federal lobbying expenditures surged by 21 percent. Those of both Penn and Cornell exceeded Harvard's in 2024.

University spokesperson Jason A. Newton is quoted by the *Harvard Crimson* as saying that "the University engages consistently with federal policymakers on a range of issues related to its education, research, and public service missions, including policies and investments that support innovation, expand access and oppor-

tunity, and strengthen engagement on issues of importance to the U.S. and the world."

from *Harvard Crimson* by staff writer Saketh Sundar  
<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/2/6/harvard-lobbying-spending-rise-decade/>

### How & Where to Recycle

Learn which materials belong in your recycle bin, where to recycle or donate other items, and what to throw away. Do your part and recycle smart to enhance the environment, boost the economy, and save your community money.

What do you do with metal, plastic, glass, or paper and cardboard? How do you get rid of that old mattress? Or textiles? Are batteries safe to throw into the trash? Does my town have a separate guide for recycling?

This Mass.gov website has the answers.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/how-where-to-recycle>

### PILOT Updates

Harvard will pay the City of Cambridge \$6 million in the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes program, representing goodwill between the city and the University. The payment is a slight increase from Harvard's typical PILOT payments. The University did not commit to a long-term amount because of federal funding uncertainties.

### Ed School Dean

Interim Dean Nonie K. Lesaux has been selected as the next dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Serving as interim dean since July 2024, Lesaux is a developmental psychologist and has been a part of the HGSE faculty since 2003.

# Linda Collins, artist in retirement

It's inaccurate to say that Linda Collins started painting her marvelous pictures in retirement for she has been painting for years. But in retirement, she says she finds solace and relaxation and time to pursue her passion.

However and whenever it started, the results are stunning.

At first there were portraits of animals, mostly dogs, in which she captured their emotions with the hand of a master. It's often their eyes that transfix the viewer.

More recently she has joined the Imago Gallery Portrait Group near her home with husband HURA President John Collins in East Falmouth, Mass. The output of portraits of family members and others is remarkable.



Linda Collins: HURA member, Harvard Retiree (Lamont Library), self portrait. At right, her brother David.

## Social Security, a very brief history

**Social Security** was a cornerstone of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, a long-term, partial solution to the effects of the Great Depression. Ida May Fuller, a Vermont schoolteacher and legal secretary, was the first to receive a Social Security check. It was dated January 31, 1940, in the amount of \$22.54 (equivalent to \$511.45 today). In 2025, the average benefit is \$1,979 per month, or \$23,748 annually.

In 1940, the average total life expectancy was 62.9 years. For men, it was 60.8 years and for women, 65.2. The Social Security full retirement age (FRA) was set at age 65. This age was based on a number of factors, including the use of age 65 in some private pension plans and the experience with its pension plans Germany had.

In 1983, legislation was enacted to raise the FRA to 67. This change is happening gradually, with an 11-year pause once age 66 was reached. But, in 2026, for individuals born after 1959, the age for full Social Security benefits will reach 67. The age to be eligible for minimum benefits has remained at 62.

The average life expectancy in 1983 was 74.6 years. In 2025, it is 79.3.

What if the FRA were raised to 69, as some politicians and policymakers call for? With Social Security facing a shortfall in the coming years and life expectancy growing, they argue it's a viable way to keep Social Security afloat. It is only one suggested solution, and while there is currently no legislation in the works, raising the full retirement age may be a foregone



conclusion if nothing else is done to address the situation.

Social Security was never meant to fund 30 years of retirement or to be an individual's only source of support during those years. In 1940 more than half of the working population did not live long enough to receive full benefits. Ida May Fuller, however, set a high bar early on. She lived for 35 years after receiving her first check. She died on January 31, 1975.

Adapted from *Kiplinger Retirement Tips* and from SSA.gov

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# Books on Aging

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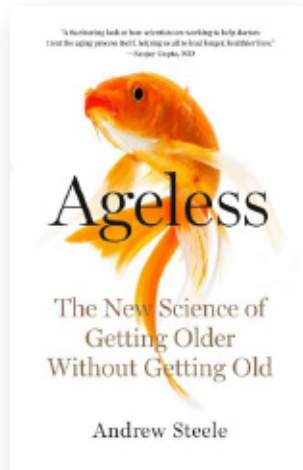
## *Ageless: The New Science of Getting Older without Getting Old*

by Andrew Steele. Anchor, 2022.

352 pages.

Aging—not cancer, not heart disease—is the underlying cause of most human death and suffering. The same cascade of biological changes that produces wrinkles and gray hair has also opened the door to dementia and disease. We work furiously to conquer each individual disease, but we never think to ask: Is aging itself necessary? Nature tells us it is not; there are tortoises and salamanders who are spry into old age and whose risk of dying is the same no matter how old they are, a phenomenon known as biological immortality. In *Ageless*, Steele charts the astounding progress science has made in recent years to secure the same for humans: to help us become old without getting frail and to live longer without ill health or disease.

After earning a PhD in physics from the University of Oxford, Steele decided that aging was the most important scientific challenge of our time and switched fields to computational biology.



of a dignified retirement for all. Instead, Americans—whose elders face the highest risk of poverty compared to workers in peer nations—are fed feel-good stories about Walmart clerks who can finally retire because a customer raised the necessary funds through a GoFundMe campaign.

*Work, Retire, Repeat* shows how relatively low-cost changes to how we finance and manage retirement would allow people to truly choose how they spend their golden years.

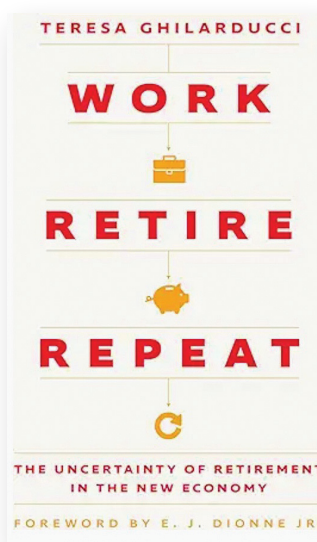
Teresa Ghilarducci is a professor of economics and policy analysis at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

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## *Work, Retire, Repeat; The Uncertainty of Retirement in the New Economy*

by Terese Ghilarducci. University of Chicago Press, 2024. 264 pages.

This work is a damning portrait of the dire realities of retirement in the United States—and how we can fix them. While the French went on strike in 2023 to protest the increase in the national retirement age, workers in the United States have all but given up on the notion



financial struggles, the losses of neighbors, friends, and family, and other everyday challenges. She chronicles how a nondescript bakery in Manhattan served as a public living room, providing company to ease loneliness and a sympathetic ear to combat the monumental and mundane struggles of late life. *At Home in the City* strikes a realistic balance as it highlights how people find support, develop their resilience, and assert their importance in their communities in old age.

Stacy Torres is assistant prof. of sociology, in the School of Nursing at UC San Francisco.



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## *At Home in the City: Growing Old in Urban America*

by Stacy Torres. University of California Press, 2025. 368 pages.

To understand elders' experiences of aging in place, Torres spent five years with longtime New York City residents as they coped with health setbacks, depression, gentrification, finan-

# Treasure or trash? Use Google Lens

If you watch *Antiques Roadshow*, you are accustomed to seeing joy on the faces of individuals whose artwork that sat in the back of a closet since granny died is worth a million dollars. Well, sometimes. More often it's just a reproduction, and the frame is worth more.

## How can you tell if your artwork is valuable?

"It can be difficult to tell the difference between a limited-edition print and a reproduction print," says Peter Held, an art appraiser accredited with the American Society of Appraisers (ASA) on a recent *Roadshow* program. "If you look at the surface closely with a magnifying glass and see a dot matrix pattern, that's a reproduction print. And generally, those are a lot less valued than an original print made by an artist," he says.

If you have an original work, consider its provenance to determine

whether it may be a high-value piece. Look for its origin in receipts or other records from the purchase. If you have trouble reading the artist's signature, try photographing it with your phone's camera and using Google Lens—a tool that searches online for images similar to your photo—to help you determine which artist it may be.

Call up the photo. At the bottom of the screen, you should see the letter "i" in a circle. This "information" icon will lead you to Google Lens, which can identify signatures, plants, or other objects and even translate a foreign word or phrase that you have photographed. The Google Lens app for iPhone or Android can be downloaded to handheld devices and to PCs or Macs.

Getting back to grannie's picture, if you suspect your art is valuable, find an art appraiser accredited with societies such as the ASA or the International

Society of Appraisers. Once you hire an appraiser, you'll probably be asked to identify the artist and provide documents, such as photographs, receipts, and records of exhibits or publications that featured the artwork—if you have them.

The appraiser will use auction databases to compare the work with recorded sales. If the artist was represented by a gallery, the appraiser may ask the gallery for comparable sales to come up with a range of values for the work.

If you want to donate your artwork to a museum, the appraiser will contact the museum curator or registrar, depending on who is handling the donation, to acquire information you'll need for tax purposes. An appraiser will fill in IRS Form 8283 for non-cash charitable gifts for you to use when filing your tax return so you can deduct the contribution (if you itemize).



## Bye, bye penny, good-bye

President Donald Trump has ordered the Treasury Department to stop minting new pennies, citing the high cost of production as wasteful government spending. Each penny costs approximately 3.69 cents to produce. The U.S. made nearly 3.2 billion pennies in FY2024, costing taxpayers \$85.3 million, excluding the value of the pennies themselves.

It remains uncertain whether Trump can unilaterally halt penny production or if congressional legislation is required. Congress has constitutional authority over coinage and currency regulation, though federal law allows the Treasury Secretary some discretion in minting coins.



The British learned to function without their minor coins. Replacing the he'penny, the halfpenny was introduced on Decimal Day in 1971 but soon became Britain's least favorite coin. The UK Treasury argued the halfpenny was important in the fight against inflation, as it prevented prices from being rounded up. Nevertheless, the coin was demonetized and withdrawn from circulation in December 1984. Prior to this, the farthing (1/4 of a penny) was last issued in 1956 and withdrawn from circulation in 1961—both with little complaint from the population in Great Britain.

[Reported by various news outlets]

## HEALTH MATTERS

### Suicide rates of older adults

Older adults, particularly those aged 75 and older, have the highest rate of suicide of any age group, yet a new study finds that well-known national suicide prevention organizations do not provide easily accessible resources targeting this population.

The study was led by researchers at Harvard-affiliated McLean Hospital. Their findings, published in February 2025 in *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* and summarized in the *Harvard Gazette*, highlight the urgent need for suicide prevention efforts that address the unique healthcare needs of older adults. Find more information at <https://tinyurl.com/y7jjakjz>.

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
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## 10-year plan gets the go-ahead

**T**he Boston Planning Department has approved Harvard's second ten-year Institutional Master Plan for the Allston Campus. Of the six projects in the newly approved plan, three are from the previous plan. These include an administrative building for Harvard Business School, a renovation of Harvard Stadium, and the Gateway Project, a mixed-use retail and academic building. New ones will include a renovation of a vacant kitchen for Harvard Catering, the construction of a tennis and squash racquet center, and a field support building for Harvard's women's rugby team. Harvard has also committed to a \$10 million increase in spending on Allston community benefits.



Buildings on the Enterprise Research Campus rose quickly over the winter months.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER CARLING/HARVARD MAGAZINE

HURA is a tax-exempt 501(c)7 all-volunteer organization. Membership is open to benefits-eligible retirees of Harvard University and is complimentary the first year until the renewal period the following June 30. Thereafter dues are \$20 annually. Visit HURA at [www.HURA.harvard.edu](http://www.HURA.harvard.edu).