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Medicare forever

Letter to the *Oregonian*
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Cling to our right to health care

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"I Will Give Up My Gun When They Peel My Cold Dead Fingers From Around It" was made popular by the National Rifle Association and by Charlton Heston in 2000 when the actor was NRA's president. The statement conjures up a stark mental image this cold January.

January 6 I turned age 65 so now have a new treasure in my wallet my Medicare card. As a throat cancer survivor I just had another follow-up appointment with my specialist. Upon arrival I proudly presented my new card with a smile I couldn't hide as I handed it to the receptionist and we spoke briefly about the current political jeopardy facing Medicare. She commented how the paper card becomes hard to read when the "really old timers" come in. After my appointment I went to a print shop and paid 95 cents to laminate my new Medicare card so it will last a long, long time.

Today that image in my head has evolved to look like this: "I Will Give Up My Medicare Card When They Peel My Cold Dead Fingers From Around It." Charlton Heston spoke for gun rights. I speak for the universal human right to healthcare.