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Who We Are

- **2001 launched by AFL-CIO**
- **4.3 million members and growing**
- **1600+ local chapters in all states**
- **Union retirees and community group participation**



A map of the United States where every state is colored red, indicating that the organization has members in every state. The map includes insets for Alaska and Hawaii. A legend at the bottom left shows a red square next to the text "Members in every state".

34 State Alliance Affiliates and growing

The Alliance and NEA

- **Executive Board Members:** John Jensen, Jean Dobashi
- **State President:** Justin Wong, Hawaii
- **State Board Members:** ARIZONA !!!, California, Hawaii, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington





What We Do

- Grassroots advocacy and actions
- Legislative advocacy
- Educate
- Empower
- Mobilize

*We fight for retirement security
and economic fairness for all
Americans*



Follow Online, Spread the Word



www.retiredamericans.org



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[@activeretirees](https://twitter.com/activeretirees) and [@RFiestaARA](https://twitter.com/RFiestaARA)



Youtube.com/retiredamericans



Flickr.com/retiredamericans

***Sign up for email updates: www.retiredamericans.org/signup**



Resources

- Annual Congressional Voting Record
- *Friday Alert* newsletter weekly
- Spanish-language materials
- Fact sheets and reports
- State staff and leaders
- Advocacy training



Our Victories



Rx Express



Defeated Social Security Privatization



Won Medicare expansion



Stopped the chained CPI

Stopped Medicare Premium Hike

Founding

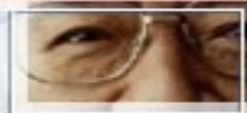
2001

2002-2003

2005-2008

2009-2010

2012-2014



BACKGROUND

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

When Did Older Americans Month Begin?

President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens met to address the concerns of America's 17 million individuals ages 65 and older. At the time, one-third of all seniors lived in poverty with few social programs available to help support them.

To raise awareness, Kennedy and the Council proclaimed May as Senior Citizens Month.



BACKGROUND

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Senior Citizens Month Becomes Older Americans Month

In 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Older Americans Act of 1965 and formally declared May as Older Americans Month.

The Older Americans Act:

- Created the Federal Administration on Aging to address the needs of older Americans
- Introduced nutrition programs, transportation assistance, federally funded adult day care, legal assistance and other services for seniors
- Paved the way to passing the Medicare program



Retiree Issues Overview

- Medicare
- Health Care
- Social Security
- Retirement Security



Retiree Health Care is At Risk

- Unified Republican government
- Congressional Leaders Say They Want to Seize Opportunity to Cut Medicare and Medicaid



False Sense of Security? Candidate Donald Trump Promised...

- No cuts to Social Security
- No cuts to Medicare
- Allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices



Donald Trump Since Election

- Silent on Social Security
- Silent on cuts to Medicare
- Met with PhRMA executives Jan. 31
- Mentions block grants for Medicaid as part of ACA replacement
- Nominates Price, Mulvaney, Verma



Anti-Retiree Cabinet Appointments

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) for
Secretary of Health
and Human Services

Lifetime Voting
Record Score:
4%

Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) for
Director of the Office of
Management and Budget

Lifetime Voting
Record Score:
6%



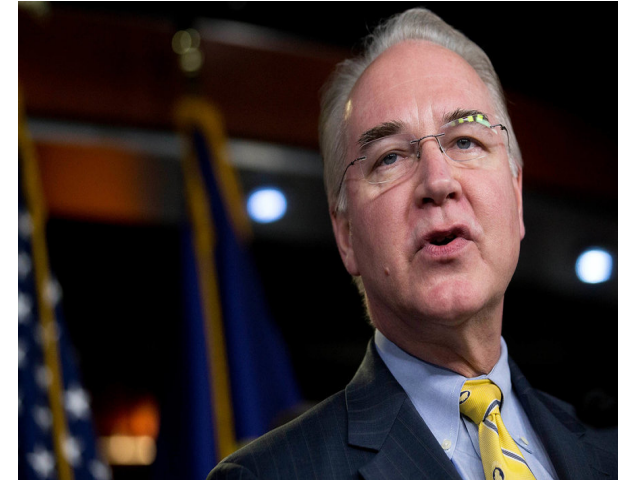


“Medicare has got some serious problems because of Obamacare. Those things are part of our plan to replace Obamacare.”

Speaker Paul Ryan

November 10, 2016, Fox News





“Medicare is on an unsustainable path which is putting in jeopardy the health and well-being of current and future retirees. ”

Rep. Tom Price

February 28, 2016 press release



Trump Admin Actions that Hurt Older Americans

- Block Fiduciary Rule – costs retirees \$17 billion per year
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance – \$0
- Federal Funding for Meals on Wheels – \$0
- Senior Community Service Employment Program – trains and places seniors in jobs
- Cuts to housing assistance – 1 in 6 receiving help are seniors



Trumpcare and Older Americans

- Raided Medicare – reduces solvency by 4 years
- Gutted Medicaid -- \$839 billion
- For people aged 50-64 insurance premiums would increase \$1,700-\$14,600 per year
- Huge tax breaks for wealthiest Americans
- Keeps Cadillac tax



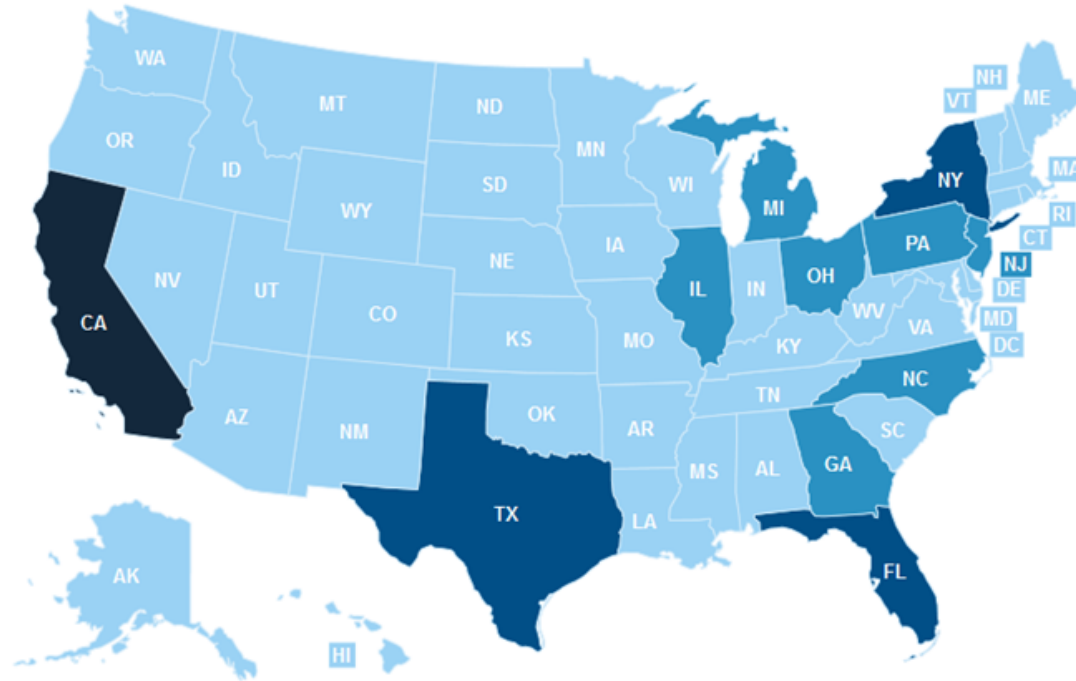
MEDICARE



Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Medicare bill July 30, 1965. White House Press Office.



Medicare: An Earned Benefit



- Over 58 million beneficiaries
 - 49.3 million seniors
 - 9.1 million people with disabilities

69,301 - 1,203,462

1,318,733 - 2,350,558

3,093,591 - 3,527,830

5,000,198



Ryan & Price Plan to Cut Medicare

- Raises Eligibility Age from 65 to 67
- Voucherizes Medicare
- Limits Medigap coverage
- Shifts more costs on to beneficiaries



What happens to Medicare and Seniors in ACA Repeal?

- Lose drug discounts under the ACA
- Lose free wellness visits & preventive coverage
- Lose protections against pre-existing conditions
- Lose protection against rising insurance prices
 - Can charge older workers premiums up to **5 TIMES MORE** than younger workers – current law is 3:1



Medicare Solutions



- We support allowing Medicare to negotiate for better prescription drug prices
- We advocate delivery system reforms, like those in the ACA.
- Alliance supports the Medicare Drug Savings Act, S. 1083 & H.R. 2005 sponsored by Sen. Nelson(D-FL) & Rep. Castor, (D-FL).

The above proposals will NOT shift costs on to beneficiaries.



Social Security



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History



1935



Faces of Social Security

- Social Security provides over \$774 billion in benefits to nearly 57 million beneficiaries
 - > 1 in 5 Americans (18.1 percent)
- The average Social Security benefit \$1,360 a month single, and \$2,260 for retired couple
- 2/3 aged couples and individuals rely on Social Security for half their income or more



Our Social Security System

- Covers virtually everyone
- Is portable between jobs
- Benefits last for life and intend to keep up with the cost of living
- Provides family benefits if worker dies; provides disability protection



Our Social Security Does Not Contribute to Deficit

- Self-funded system
 - Fully-funded by the payroll taxes of employees and employers
- *By law* only spends money dedicated to program, cannot borrow



Our Victories Defending Social Security

- 2005-2008: Defeated efforts to Privatize Social Security
- 2011-2014: Prevented benefit cuts during Fiscal Cliff, Government Shutdown and Budget Negotiations
- 2011-2014: Stopped the Chained CPI benefit cut



We've moved the debate!

2012

- Chained CPI
- No Presidential Candidate discussed expansion
- Only a handful supported

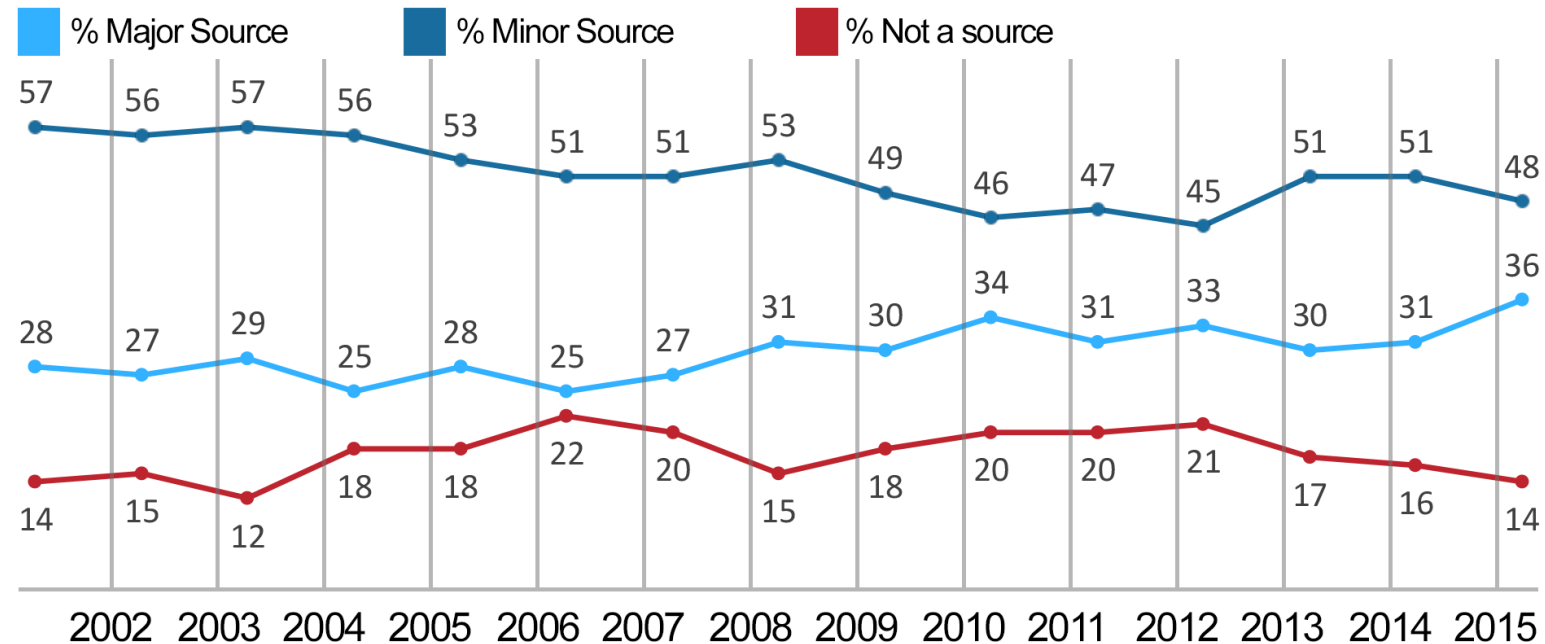
2016

- Social Security Expansion
- President Obama, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders support expansion
- 42 Senators & 143 Representatives support expansion



People Rely More on Social Security

When you retire, how much do you expect to rely on Social Security – Will it be a major source of income, a minor source of income, or not a source at all?



*Source: Gallup



Social Security & Congress

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, admits Republicans want to:

- Raise retirement age to 70 over the next 30-35 years
- Means Test
- Institute chained CPI



Face Up to the Retirement Security Crisis



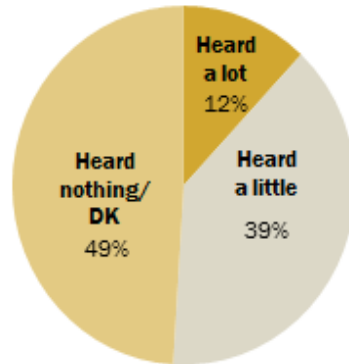
- Fewer pensions
- Lost home equity
- Lower 401(k) values
- Lower real wages
- Lost jobs
- Recession
- Lower savings rates



Why Activism Will Help

Few aware of proposed Medicare changes

% who say they have ____ about a proposal to change Medicare to give future participants a credit toward purchasing private health insurance coverage ...



Note: Q94.
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec 5, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Pew: Most People Are Unaware of Proposed Medicare Changes

Heard a lot about it: **67% oppose**

Heard little/nothing about it: **41% favor**, 40% oppose and 19% don't know



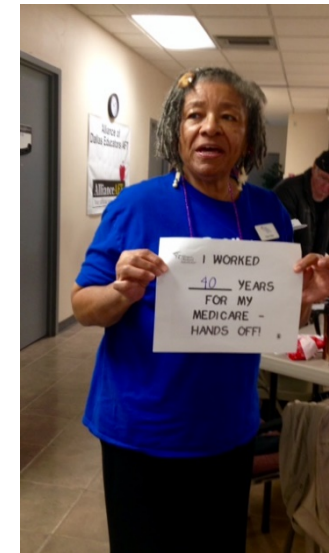
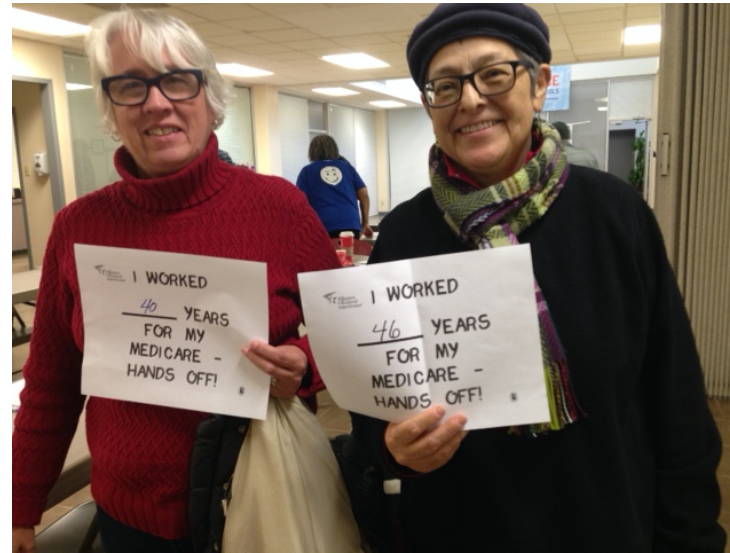
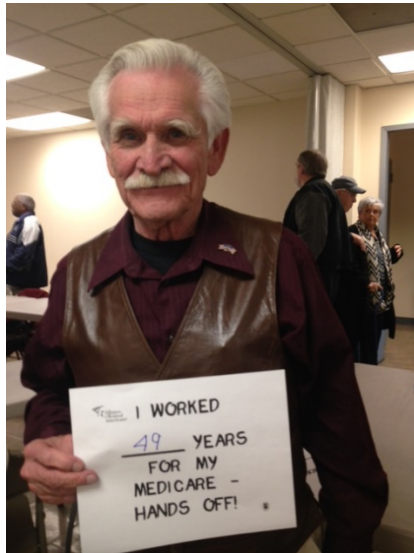
Alliance Efforts to Protect Healthcare

- 121 District Office meetings
- 20,000+ constituent calls to 300+ Capitol Hill offices
- Gathered 1,000,000 petition signatures
- Protests in key districts
- Highlighted the effects of ACA repeal on seniors



Action So Far

Taking a Stand, Telling Their Story



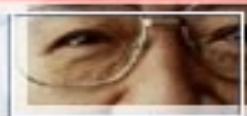
Rallies and Protests

San Antonio, TX



Hartford, CT

Columbus, OH



Retirees Are Speaking Out

Tell Congress and the Media
that Medicare Matters to You

Share Your Story at
RetiredAmericans.org/Actions



Sign up for our newsletter

SUBMIT



Medicare Is Under Attack

Guaranteed health care benefits for 59 million Americans is now at risk. Paul Ryan and Tom Price have told the press they will move to privatize and voucherize Medicare in 2017. Medicare privatization is wrong for today's retirees and for any American who hopes to retire after a lifetime of hard work. Help us save Medicare. [Share your story today!](#)



Wendy Boszak
Reno, Nevada

"My Medicare costs are already almost \$4,000 per year just with premiums. People don't realize how much seniors are paying as it is," she said... [Read More](#)



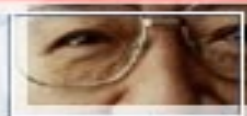
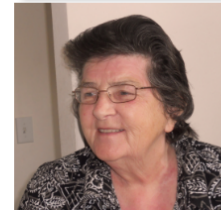
Dave Starkson
Glendale, Arizona

Dave Starkson, 67, lives in Glendale, Arizona, but is ready to downsize to another town nearby. He is on Medicare, which is a major reason he is able to retire. Between his Medicare benefits and the lower util... [Read More](#)



Louis Forrasi
Siler City, North Carolina

Louis Forrasi, of Siler City, North Carolina, appreciates Medicare after his recent knee replacement. "Medicare took care of everything from hospital bills to physical therapy, and it paid for a walker as well"... [Read More](#)



Alliance Members and the Older American Vote

Clinton beat Trump 65% to 33% among Union Retirees

Retirees outperformed union voters who voted Clinton-Trump 56% to 37% nationwide; a 10% drop from the 66% for Obama in 2012.

Trump beat Clinton 53% to 45% among 65+ voters

This is an improvement of 4 percentage points for the Democratic candidate from 2012 and 65+ voters were the only age group that moved more Democratic.



Recent Senior Vote

	2010	2012	2014	2016
	21% of electorate	16% of electorate	22% of electorate	16% of electorate
Democratic	40%	44%	41%	45%
Republican	59%	56%	57%	53%

SOURCE: National Exit Polls 2012, 2014, 2016



How to Resist Trump and Ryan?

- Educate
- Organize
- Mobilize
- Voter Protection – 32 states now have Voter ID laws



Take Action, Spread the Word



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