

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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New Hampshire Alliance Vice President Asks Jeb Bush “Why Do You Keep Attacking the Seniors?”

Kudos to Alliance Member **Jane Lang** of New Hampshire who didn't hesitate to confront former Florida Governor Jeb Bush about his statement Wednesday night that Medicare should be “phased out.” She attended Bush's town hall meeting in Groffton and asked him pointed questions about his plans. National media, including CNN.com, [USA Today](http://www.usatoday.com), the Wall Street Journal and Politico covered the exchange.

“It's great to see an Alliance member speaking ‘truth to power,’” said **Barbara Easterling**, President of the Alliance. “Health insurance for older Americans is an earned benefit. We need to fight against so-called reform proposals that sound reasonable but will increase costs and decrease access for older Americans at a time when they need it the most.”

Executive director Richard Fiesta also joined DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz at a press conference criticizing Bush's comments which was covered by several news outlets including [Florida Public Radio](http://www.floridapublicradio.com) and [FloridaPolitics.com](http://www.floridapolitics.com)



50th Anniversary of Medicare Next Week

Alliance members will participate in events marking this important milestone in Washington, DC and in dozens of local communities over the next couple weeks. We need to make sure everyone understands how important guaranteed health insurance is our families. You can get involved and find an event in your community [here](#).

Today's Medicare system didn't just happen,” said **Ruben Burks**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “It took years of advocacy by older Americans and their allies to create this program in

1965. We owe it to those who came before us to continue to fight to strengthen and improve Medicare for future generations.”

Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds Strong – Action Needed to Prevent Cuts to Disability Fund Payments in 2017

This week the Social Security and Medicare Trustees issued their annual reports on the fiscal health of the trusts funds. The Medicare Trust Fund has sufficient funds to cover its obligations until 2030, unchanged from last year. The Social Security retirement fund is projected to pay full benefits through 2034 – one year more than last year. However the Disability Insurance Fund will have a shortfall in 2017 unless Congress takes action to bolster it.

“Our country does face a retirement crisis – but that is not due to Social Security or Medicare. Sixty-two percent of households aged 55-64 have saved less than one times their annual salary, not nearly enough to sustain a family,” Fiesta commented on the reports. “For this reason expanding Social Security, which can be accomplished by making sure the top five percent of wage earners pay the same percentage in taxes on earnings as everyone else, is a top priority of the Alliance for Retired Americans.”

You Can Help! [Sign our petition](#) and tell Congress to stop pitting current and future retirees against disabled workers in a cynical attempt to divide us and cut our hard earned Social Security benefits.

Senate Republicans Back Down on Plan to Raid Social Security to Pay for Highways

Alliance executive director Richard Fiesta [spoke out](#) forcefully when a highway transportation bill that included cuts to Social Security Disability Insurance made its way toward the Senate floor Tuesday. By Wednesday afternoon Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell backed down and [removed the Social Security cut from the bill](#).

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.3 million retirees and their families.