

FRIDAY ALERT



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Incoming OMB Director Supports Cuts to Medicare and Social Security

House Freedom Caucus Leader **Mike Mulvaney** of South Carolina, who has supported drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare, [will be Director of the Office of Management and Budget](#) under Donald Trump.

As a member of Congress, Mulvaney has introduced numerous bills that have attempted to cut government spending, particularly on Medicare and Social Security. His argument has been that the programs need to be reformed in order to avoid bankruptcy. At times he sided with Democrats to reduce defense spending.

“Retirees are going to have our work cut out for us,” said **Robert Roach**, President of the Alliance. “Nominees like Rep. Mulvaney, and Price for Secretary of HHS, are going to try to push the new president to the extreme right. We must remind all elected officials that Medicare and Social Security are benefits that we have earned over a lifetime of work. They must be protected for both current and future retirees.”

During the presidential campaign Trump promised not to cut Social Security or Medicare, but he has been silent on the issue since then. Trump’s nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Rep. Tom Price, has worked with House Speaker Paul Ryan to “reform” Medicare by ending guaranteed health benefits and turning Medicare into a privatized, voucher system.

Save the Date – On January 4, Tell Congress Hands Off Medicare

On January 4, 2017, the first workday of the new Congress – thousands of Alliance retirees and our allies will call Capitol Hill and tell Congress to keep its Hands Off Medicare!

Paul Ryan and **Donald Trump’s** nominees for Secretary of HHS and Director of the Office of Management and Budget are preparing to measures to privatize and voucherize Medicare in early 2017. They want to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans and big corporations and plan to cut seniors’ health care to pay for it.

We must make sure Congress knows that voting to privatize Medicare is a betrayal of all those who have paid for Medicare throughout their working lives. **Please click and sign up to call Congress on Wednesday, January 4.**

“Last week a poll found that most Americans haven’t heard about Ryan’s plans,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “But once they hear the details, 67% of respondents oppose so-called Medicare reform. Ryan is trying to dismantle Medicare quickly, before the American people realize what’s happening.”

Study: Female Doctors Help Elderly Patients Live Longer

A new [Harvard study](#) published this week found that Medicare beneficiaries who were treated in the hospital by female doctors had better outcomes than those who were treated by male doctors. The researchers looked at patient outcomes for more than 1.5 million hospital visits. The study's authors suggest that the differences may be related to the fact that female doctors tend to spend more time and communicate better with patients. Women doctors are also known to emphasize preventative care and follow clinical guidelines more closely.

"These findings should be reviewed by physicians and medical schools to improve the health of all patients," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

Alleged Scheme to Fix Generic Drug Prices Started at Dinners and 'Girls Nights Out' **By Kaiser Health News**

The high prices Americans pay for generic drugs may have been cooked up by pharmaceutical salespeople on golf courses, at a New Jersey steakhouse or over martinis at a "Girls Nights Out" in Minnesota.

Details emerging from an ongoing investigation show that drug company employees gathered regularly at such swanky locations and conspired to keep prices and profits high, according to interviews and a complaint filed last week in U.S. District Court by Attorneys General in 20 states. "The wining and the dining and the dinners and the social repertoire sort of led to an atmosphere in which follow up conversations could occur [and] where price fixing could occur ... because they had these relationships," said Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson in an interview. "I think people should be absolutely appalled." **Read more...**

Happy Holidays!

The Alliance will be closed for the holidays from December 23, 2016 - January 2, 2017. For news updates during that time and all year long, please like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/retiredamericans

We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season!