

# FRIDAY ALERT



**Alliance for Retired Americans**

815 16th Street, NW, Fourth Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.637.5399

[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org) • [aracommunications@retiredamericans.org](mailto:aracommunications@retiredamericans.org)

Spanish version: [www.alianzadejubilados.org](http://www.alianzadejubilados.org)

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## Representatives Who Voted for the AHCA Greeted with Protests and Die-Ins Back Home

Constituents demanded answers from members of Congress who voted for the controversial **American Health Care Act** when they returned to their home districts this week. Only 14 of the 217 House Republicans that voted for the bill held town hall meetings in their home districts this week. The few that did, including Representative **Tom MacArthur** (R-NJ), who worked to include an amendment that allowed states to waive certain health coverages in order to force the bill to a vote, were [scrutinized and criticized](#) for their support of a bill that is estimated to take away insurance from at least 24 million Americans.

For the representatives that refused to face their angry constituents, neighboring Democratic lawmakers attended town halls in these GOP-controlled districts. In this [“adopt a district”](#) approach, Democratic members of Congress are helping highlight the problems with **President Trump** and **Speaker Paul Ryan’s** approach to health care. Alliance members attended these town halls and joined “Die-In” protests outside their representatives’ district offices.



Alliance members participate in a “Die-In” outside Sen. Jeff Flake’s office.

“This grassroots activism is exactly what we need to defeat the AHCA with all of its horrible provisions in the Senate,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “We must stay engaged and hold members of Congress accountable.”

### “Election Integrity” Commission Presents a Danger to Voting Rights

Since November, President Trump has made unfounded claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election. On Thursday he signed an executive order creating a “Presidential Commission on Election Integrity” to be headed by Vice President **Mike Pence** and Kansas Secretary of State **Kris Kobach**.

The Commission will examine “fraudulent voting and fraudulent voter registrations” and is expected to release a report in 2018.

Numerous nonpartisan studies have looked at the issue and none found voter fraud to be a significant problem. The involvement of Kobach is particularly troubling. During his tenure as Secretary of State, Kobach backed numerous voter ID laws and restrictive proposals, including a proof-of-citizenship requirement to vote that courts threw out on constitutional grounds. Kobach has echoed the President’s claims of millions voting illegally in elections, and used [false and widely unproven](#) statistics to back up his arguments.

As many as 11 percent of American citizens do not have government-issued photo ID cards. Voter ID laws have been found to affect [seniors](#) in particular. Older Americans are less likely to have a driver license, and the process to obtain a state issued photo-ID is expensive and cumbersome.

“It has been shown time and again that voter ID laws do nothing to reduce voter fraud and actually suppress the vote of the county’s most vulnerable populations,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Focusing on the imaginary epidemic of voter fraud only serves to divert attention from real issues that are preventing eligible voters from effectively participating in our democracy.”

### Alliance President Calls for Activists to Stay Determined

Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.** was the keynote speaker at the AFL-CIO Minnesota State Retirees Council’s conference last weekend. Click [here](#) to watch the full speech.

In light of unprecedented attacks on earned benefits and health care, President Roach said that it is more important than ever for seniors to organize and make their voices heard by elected leaders.

“The government works for us, we don’t work for the government. If the government doesn’t work for us, we have an obligation to get rid of those in government who are not working for us,” Roach told the attendees. “In the richest country in the world, we have people deciding whether they should buy food or medicine. There is something wrong with that picture in America, and it is up to us to stop it.”

## How Do the Cost of Your Medications Stack Up?

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. The GoodRx website just updated the list of the Top 10 most expensive drugs in the United States. Check out the list [here](#).

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The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.