

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

New Hampshire Primary: Kasich and Jeb Bush Mean Trouble for Seniors

The top four finishers for the Republicans in the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday were businessman **Donald Trump**, Gov. **John Kasich** (Ohio), Sen. **Ted Cruz** (TX), and former Governor **Jeb Bush** (FL). The Alliance [blog](#) examined what Kasich and Jeb Bush would mean for seniors.

For starters, Kasich and Jeb Bush intend to weaken and cut Social Security. Kasich would [privatize](#) Social Security for future seniors and undermine Social Security for Baby Boomers who are close to retirement. He proposed a new tax on Social Security for seniors in Ohio.

Addressing a New Hampshire voter who was concerned about cutting Social Security benefits, Kasich [said](#), "Well, you'll get over it," and laughed.

Kasich also says that Medicare must be "[fundamentally reformed](#)," not protected and strengthened for current and future generations.

Jeb Bush is no better than Kasich on [Social Security](#). He supported his brother's notorious plan to privatize it, wants to raise the full Social Security retirement age, and is open to means testing it. Bush's plans for Medicare are also worrisome. In fact in July he said that we ought to [phase out Medicare](#).

"Much like the top Republican delegate winners in Iowa last week, none of the top Republicans in New Hampshire are a good choice for retirees," said Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.** "For that matter, they are not a good choice for anyone concerned about the welfare of older Americans."

Alliance Members Join AFL-CIO's Push to Stop Passage of TPP this Week

The AFL-CIO led national "Trade Call-In Days" on Monday and Tuesday this week, and Alliance activists jumped into the effort with both feet.

Virginia Alliance President **Ron Thompson** was in Washington lobbying against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on Wednesday and Thursday. In visiting every office of the two U.S. Senators and eleven Representatives from Virginia, Mr. Thompson stressed that the TPP means locking in higher prescription drug prices, outsourcing U.S. jobs, and putting corporations before workers and retirees.

Tory Anderson, Executive Director of the Arizona Alliance, focused on her state's congressional delegation. Below, she is pictured with Rep. **Raúl Grijalva**:



“The Alliance effort this week on stopping the TPP was very impressive to say the least,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Thank you to everyone who contacted their Representative and Senators.”

Donnelly Presses Reserve Chair after Companies Announce Jobs are Moving to Mexico

Following the announcement that companies Carrier and UTEC will be offshoring 2100 jobs from Indiana and moving them to Mexico, Sen. **Joe Donnelly** (D-IN) [pressed Janet Yellen](#), Chair of the Federal Reserve, during a Senate Banking Committee hearing on Thursday. Donnelly noted that the companies had taken advantage of the Indiana business climate and the work of the Export-Import Bank to achieve their sales before the outsourcing. He stressed the adverse effect the move will have on the workers’ retirement security as one of the repercussions of the revelation.

White House’s 2017 Budget Proposal Would Provide Seniors with Drug Savings

The White House’s 2017 [budget proposal](#) would provide seniors more affordable prescription drugs and expand Medicaid. The \$4.1 trillion budget, released February 9, also provided new troubling information about the TPP.

President **Obama’s** proposal includes several ways to control prescription drug costs by \$21 billion over a decade, [officials said](#). For example, it offers states incentives to [expand Medicaid](#) and requires drug companies to publicly disclose the costs of their R&D.

However the budget also contains some provisions that would increase health care costs for seniors starting in 2020 including: implementing additional means-testing for Medicare; modifying the Part B deductible for new beneficiaries; and introducing co-payments for home health care - increasing costs to seniors who need these services.

“The Alliance strongly opposes these provisions that shift costs to seniors, and urges Congress to reject them,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Finally, the budget document revealed that the TPP would cost the United States about \$28 billion in lost tariff revenue over the next 10 years, assuming it goes into effect in 2017. Under U.S. House of Representative rules, that cost would have to be offset before the TPP can gain congressional approval. The figures provide further ammunition to those who argue that the TPP is a flawed agreement and should not be passed.

Reminder: Regional Conferences Approaching

The Alliance's quadrennial [Western](#) Regional Conference will be held March 8–9, 2016 at the Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, and the quadrennial [Southern](#) Regional conference will be held March 29–30, 2016 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

The quadrennial [Midwest](#) Regional Conference will be held May 4-5, 2016 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit, Michigan.

During each conference we will elect four regional board members and prepare for the 2016 general election. Questions? Contact **Joni Jones** at jjones@retiredamericans.org or 202-637-5377.

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.