

# 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)

**March 18, 2016**

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

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## House Republican Budget Resolution Turns to Seniors for Cuts

The House Budget Committee approved a fiscal 2017 budget resolution by a 20-16 vote on Wednesday. The budget provides \$1.07 trillion in discretionary spending for fiscal 2017 and proposes [deep cuts](#) in the years ahead to health care programs. Cuts include the elimination of “Obamacare” coverage for millions of people; transforming Medicaid to a state block grant; fast tracking cuts to Social Security; and transforming Medicare into a voucher-like system for future retirees.

It marks a victory for Budget Committee Chairman **Tom Price** (R-GA), as well as for Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R-WI), who has made returning to an orderly budget and appropriations process a top priority. However, *Politico* reports [“that victory may be fleeting.”](#)

Ultra-conservative Reps. **Dave Brat** (VA) and **Marlin Stutzman** (IN) were the only Republicans to vote against the budget, joining all Democrats. Many conservatives oppose it, saying it calls for too much spending, and some GOP lawmakers who supported the bill in committee have said they did so as a favor to leadership but would oppose it on the House floor.

In recent weeks, Rep. Price and other Republican leaders have tried to address the demand for further spending reductions by proposing [\\$30 billion in cuts](#) to mandatory programs like Medicare and Social Security. Those reductions would theoretically offset increases in spending that were part of an agreement with President **Obama** last fall.

On Monday night, hours before the House Budget Committee unveiled a budget for 2017, members of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus had issued a statement saying they would oppose the plan because it adhered to that agreement.

In the end, the budget was approved after a marathon markup during which committee Democrats offered a total of 25 amendments, all of which were rejected. Some of these amendments included a plan to reduce prices of prescription drugs and expand earned Social Security benefits. The budget could reach the House floor next week if leadership can round up the votes, but doing so will be difficult.

## Alliance Fights to Stop “Paycheck Deception” in Missouri

Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.** joined Gov. **Jay Nixon** (D-MO), Missouri Alliance President **Dave Meinell**, and more than 6,900 Alliance members on a tele-town hall call on Thursday to help sustain a veto of “Paycheck Deception” by the governor. If state legislators do not sustain the veto, unions in Missouri will be singled out to face tight controls and burdensome regulations that won’t apply to anyone else.

“Paycheck deception will prevent working people from speaking out on the issues that matter to them the most – including issues that affect our retirement security,” said Mr. Roach on the call.

## **AFL-CIO Survey Spotlights Critical Issues for Working Women**

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer and Alliance Executive Vice President **Liz Shuler** unveiled the [results](#) of a national survey of working women on Thursday. Among the findings were that more than half of women only have 4 hours of personal time per week after their caregiver and working duties. Fifty-nine percent of respondents were the primary breadwinner for their families.

The study also found that the issues of equal pay, affordable health care, and raising the minimum wage were top concerns among respondents. The data reflects what many American women have felt for a long time: longer work hours, more responsibility at home, but still having trouble getting by financially.

“In these difficult economic times, with wages stagnating and the cost of living rising, joining a union makes as much sense for women as it ever has,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

## **Sign up for Midwest Regional Conference in Detroit by April 4<sup>th</sup>**

It's not too late to register for the Alliance's quadrennial [Southern](#) Regional Conference, March 29–30, 2016 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Register on-line now and the Alliance will waive the late fee.

The quadrennial [Midwest](#) Regional Conference will be held May 4-5, 2016 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. April 4, 2016 is the deadline to register. The [Northeast](#) Regional Conference will take place in Washington, DC, May 19-20. 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](mailto:jjones@retiredamericans.org) or 202-637-5377.

The results from the Western Regional Conference brought two newly-elected members to the Regional Board: **Steve Kofahl** from Washington state and **Hene Kelly** from California. **Mack Goodman** from Colorado was re-elected.

“Congratulations to our new and returning Western Regional Board members, and thank you to **John O'Brien** for his years of service on the Regional Board,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

## **Former New Hampshire Alliance Executive Vice President Elissa Jane Lang, 1948 – 2016**

**Jane Lang**, Executive Vice President of the New Hampshire Alliance for Retired Americans, passed away on March 9, 2016. She was 68.

A tireless supporter of retiree rights, Ms. Lang was always ready to challenge politicians on either side of the aisle when she thought senior issues were at risk. Last year during town halls in New Hampshire she confronted former Florida Governor/presidential candidate **Jeb Bush** on

Medicare, and later at another town hall, Ohio Governor [John Kasich](#) on Social Security. She felt passionately that health care was a basic human right and not a privilege.



“Jane’s enthusiasm and activism will be greatly missed. Her commitment to our cause was deep and her loss will be felt by all of us. We send our deepest condolences to Jane’s family,” said Mr. Fiesta. “To quote Rep. **Ann Kuster** (D-NH): ‘Our lives are better for all that she accomplished.’”

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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.