

# FRIDAY ALERT



**Alliance for Retired Americans**

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

## **New EBRI Survey shows increasing divide between those on track for retirement and those falling behind**

The Employment Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) released its [annual retirement survey](#) and the results are discouraging. Savings progress has plateaued and the divide between those who are on track for retirement and those who are falling behind is growing wider. The survey found that many workers are not at all confident in their financial futures and those without pensions and 401(k)s are finding it especially difficult to catch up.

Although Americans are feeling more confident about their ability to retire comfortably now than any time between 2009 and 2013. However, this optimism is often misplaced, as retirement confidence outpaces retirement readiness.

“Americans are right to be nervous and that’s why we are fighting to defend pensions and expand Social Security,” said **Robert Roach**, President of the Alliance. “Seniors without pension plans or retirement savings are having to stay in the work force long after normal retirement age. They simply are unable to stop working.”

## **Affordable Care Act’s 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Alliance activist **Ken Pease** spoke at a news conference Wednesday on the steps of the U.S. Capitol marking the sixth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Also speaking were Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, other members of Congress and consumers who have benefitted from the law. Pease is a retiree from Fairfax, Virginia.



The ACA has been a life-saver for Pease and millions of seniors, providing essential preventative care and lowering the cost of medicines. The ACA has also helped seniors save over \$20.8 billion in prescription drug costs since 2010.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, seniors are eligible for free flu shots, mammograms, prostate cancer and cardiovascular disease screenings as well as a free annual wellness exams.”

Watch and read his full speech on our website: <http://retiredamericans.org/affordable-care-act-6th-anniversary/>

### **Alliance Presses the National Institute of Health to Make Prostate Cancer Drug More Affordable**

Eleven pro-consumer groups, including the Alliance, sent a [letter](#) this week urging the National Institute for Health (NIH) director, Francis Collins, to take action to make XTANDI prostate cancer drug, available to consumers at a lower cost.

Japan-based Astellas Pharmaceuticals is manufacturing and selling XTANDI, which was developed as a results of U.S. taxpayer funded research. However, it is charging Americans \$350 a day for the drug – which is up to four times more for this medicine than what patients in others developed countries are paying.

“It is outrageous that a drug that researched and developed with American tax dollars is being sold back to us by a foreign company at four times the rate they charge other countries,” said Joseph Peters, the Alliance Secretary-Treasurer.

### **The Alliance for Retired Americans set a letter thanking Actions Taken by the Senate Special Committee on Aging**

**Richard Fiesta**, executive director of the Alliance, [wrote to](#) the Senate Special Committee on Aging this week and urged them to continue working to lower high prescription drug prices. The Committee has held a series of hearings exposing egregious practices that are causing the price of certain drugs to skyrocket.

“While I am thankful for the support Senators **Susan Collins** (R-ME) and **Claire McCaskill** (D-MO) have shown in combating sky-high prescription drug prices, it is not enough.” said Fiesta, “Congress must take concrete steps in combating prescription drug prices for all Americans.”

[In the letter](#) the Alliance praised S. 2615, the Increasing Competition in Pharmaceuticals Act (S. 2615), which would allow the FDA to speed up the process of getting generic medications to the market. If passed, the legislation would be a first step in combating high drug prices and to address the shortage that exists for many off-patent drugs.

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

Although it’s too late to register for the Alliance’s quadrennial [Southern](#) Regional Conference online, you can register on site 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. 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.

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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.