

# FRIDAY ALERT



**Alliance for Retired Americans**

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

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## President Obama Signs Older Americans Act Reauthorization into Law

On Tuesday, **President Obama** signed the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2016, a law that reauthorizes grant programs and other services to seniors. The new OAA will fund a variety of well-known [programs](#) aimed at easing the difficulty seniors and their families face in navigating the aging process. Some of the services included in the law are Meals on Wheels, support for family caregivers, and transportation assistance. Other provisions are aimed at reducing scams and elder abuse.

The final bill that Congress sent to the President increases specific funding levels for the programs by 6% over the next three years. The bill also adjusted the formula for allocating funds to states to ensure that states with growth in their 60+ population would receive more support

“The Older Americans Act helps seniors live in dignity,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “By signing this law, President Obama will enable millions of older Americans to improve their health, independence, and quality of life.”

"For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act has helped people live the lives they want, with the people they choose, throughout their lives," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Aging **Kathy Greenlee** stated.

She noted that more than 77 million people will soon be over the age of 60, and more than 34 million people – mostly family and friends – will be supporting a loved one who is over 60. These numbers will continue to grow for the next several decades.

## AFL-CIO's New Video Shows the Economic Devastation TPP Will Bring

The AFL-CIO released a [video](#) this week about the economic problems many American cities would face if the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement is passed. The video shows how the TPP would double down on the changes put in place by NAFTA leading to job losses across the nation and fewer countries buying American-made goods. Steelworkers are already facing massive layoffs, and other industries are likely to follow suit if TPP is allowed to become law.

Meanwhile a new analysis this week by [Public Citizen](#) revealed that a claim about 18,000 tax cuts on Made-in-America goods included in the TPP is wrong.

“The deal will eliminate many of the America jobs that pay enough to support a family. And lower lifetime earnings mean a less secure retirement,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

## Speaker Ryan Can't Get House GOP to Agree on a Budget

Six months after replacing **John Boehner** (R-OH), Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R-WI) is [no closer to finding consensus](#) among the extreme factions of the GOP than his predecessor was. The leadership's 2017 budget plan is stalled, and Ryan's toughest opponents are from the Freedom Caucus, the ultra-conservative faction of GOP representatives that were behind Boehner's resignation. According to *Politico*, some Republicans are grumbling "in private so far" that nothing is getting done under Ryan.



If Ryan's policy agenda were to move forward in the House, it would contain many [deep cuts](#) to Medicare and Medicaid, further hurting Americans who rely on those programs.

"Dysfunction in the U.S. House continues under Speaker Ryan," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "For the moment that is protecting retirees against the cuts he wants to make to our earned Social Security and Medicare benefits."

### Regional Conferences: Alliance Still Taking Registrations

The deadline has been extended to register for the Alliance's quadrennial [Midwest](#) Regional Conference, to be held May 4-5 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit. Register online now.

The [Northeast](#) Regional Conference will take place in Washington, DC on 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.