

# 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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## History Made: Hillary Clinton Claims the Democratic Nomination for President!

**Hillary Clinton** made history Tuesday as the first woman to [claim the presidential nomination](#) for a major political party following Democratic primary victories in California, New Jersey, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Secretary Clinton has now crossed the 2,383 delegate threshold to secure the Democratic nomination and is one giant step closer to the presidency.

“Becoming the presumptive nominee is a great victory for Hillary Clinton, for women, and for the American people,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Retirees and working Americans congratulate Secretary Clinton on this magnificent accomplishment.”

Her biggest victory Tuesday was in California, where Clinton won 56% of the vote and secured a majority of the state’s delegates. On Thursday, President **Obama** officially endorsed her. Also on Thursday, Sen. **Bernie Sanders** vowed to work to defeat **Donald Trump** in November.

President Roach added, “Thank you to Sen. Bernie Sanders for mobilizing millions of people and drawing attention to the need for expanding our earned Social Security benefits. We look forward to working with Secretary Clinton and Sen. Sanders in unifying the party to ensure that someone who is ‘temperamentally unfit’ does not get elected President of the most powerful nation in the world.”

He concluded, “Together, we can bring retirement security and dignity to millions of seniors who do not have that yet.”



## **Alliance Officially Joins AFL-CIO Boycott of Mexican-Made Nabisco Products**

Last July, Nabisco announced it would invest \$130 million into its plant in Mexico, rather than its Chicago factory. This decision has resulted in the loss of 600 jobs in Chicago's historic Nabisco bakery. While a few other Nabisco bakeries in the United States will continue to produce Oreos, the production of all Chicago Oreos, Chips Ahoy, Honey Graham and Ritz will be sent to Mexico.

In response to Nabisco's decision and the loss of hundreds of good union jobs, the Alliance has joined the AFL-CIO's boycott of Nabisco's Mexican-made products in an official [statement](#).

"Outsourcing manufacturing jobs that can sustain middle class families and provide a secure retirement is a concerning and growing trend," said President Roach. "Our members are supporting the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union (BCTGM) workers who are affected by Nabisco's decision and telling their friends and neighbors to check the label before buying any Nabisco product."

The Alliance urges all consumers to go to <http://www.fightforamericanjobs.org> and watch a video showing how to check the label and avoid Mexican-made Nabisco products.

## **CBPP: Budget Cuts Squeeze Social Security Administration Even as Workloads Reach Record Highs**

Last week the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) issued a [report](#) on the negative impact budget cuts have had on the Social Security Administration (SSA). Over 59 million retirees, survivors, and disabled workers receive their earned Social Security benefits each year – a number that has grown by 6 million in the last 5 years. Despite millions of new SS beneficiaries, SSA's operating budget has been cut by 10% since 2010. As a result, SSA instituted a hiring freeze and closed down hundreds of its offices across the country.

"This report highlights what Social Security Administration employees experience every day due to the devastating effects of budget austerity," said **J. David Cox**, President of the American Federation Government Employees (AFGE). "Thousands of positions have remained vacant for years thanks to a mandatory hiring freeze, forcing the employees to do the jobs of two or three people. Nearly 600 field and mobile offices have been shuttered this decade, while the remaining offices are operating on drastically reduced hours. As a result, it's taking longer for employees to answer phone calls, meet with customers, process benefit requests, and resolve disability claims. And their work is only going to increase as more Americans reach retirement."

The 2017 funding bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday would continue to squeeze SSA.

SSA's essential functions range from determining eligibility for Disability Insurance to ensuring benefits are paid accurately and on time. A diminished operating budget has created fewer offices and employees to meet these functions and maintain high levels of customer service. The Alliance will continue to stand with AFGE and other senior and disabilities advocates to increase funding for the SSA and its workforce.

## Speaker Ryan's "Better Way" of Fighting Poverty Includes Plenty for Wall Street

This week House Speaker **Paul Ryan** began to unveil his [six-part policy agenda](#), a plan to shape legislation and work towards a "better GOP".

On Tuesday Ryan introduced "A Better Way", his anti-poverty measures that advocate broad policy changes to welfare programs and financial mechanisms. It recommends common GOP poverty solutions including state block grants and increased work requirements for social programs. Other provisions are aimed at improving specific programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for children. Ryan's plan calls for therapy in lieu of cash assistance, to include "mental or physical therapies, or special-education services in school."

Ryan and the GOP would also like to abolish the Department of Labor's recently released "fiduciary rule," which once it is fully implemented in 2018 will require that investment professionals act in their clients' best interests.

"Ryan's change would remove the rule that financial professionals must put their clients' interests before their own," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

Over the next two weeks, Ryan will continue to release his agenda for a "better GOP", addressing policy recommendations for healthcare, jobs and the economy, constitutional authority, and taxes.

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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.