

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

815 16th Street, NW, Fourth Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.637.5399

www.retiredamericans.org • aracommunications@retiredamericans.org

Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

July 15, 2016

Trump Names Indiana Governor Pence as his Running Mate

Presumed Republican presidential nominee **Donald Trump** named Indiana Governor **Mike Pence** as his running mate today.

As a member of Congress between 2001 and 2012 then-Rep. Pence voted against the retiree-friendly position on almost every issue. He received just a 3% Lifetime Pro-Retiree Score in the Alliance Voting Record. Among those votes was support for the Paul Ryan Republican budget, which would have ended Medicare as we know it by turning it into a voucher system and shifted thousands of dollars in health care costs to seniors.

A strong proponent for privatizing Social Security, Pence told CNN's Wolf Blitzer in November, 2010, "I think it's imperative – absolutely imperative – whether its Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid ... with regard to entitlements, we're going to have to take some deep cuts in domestic spending."

"Donald Trump's choice of Governor Mike Pence as his running mate locks in place a team that endangers the things that retirees care about the most: the protection and expansion of their earned Social Security and Medicare benefits," **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance said in a [statement](#).



Governor Pence

Alliance Sends Wishes for Healing to France

The Alliance sends its heartfelt condolences and wishes for healing to the people of France following the horrific attack in Nice on Thursday.

"The French have been our allies since the 1700's, and we are deeply saddened to witness the

terrible violence that they have been experiencing for months now,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “We stand with the French people in the face of these senseless acts of bloodshed.”

Voters Give Hillary Clinton a Considerable Edge over Donald Trump on Health Care Issues

On Friday, Kaiser Family Foundation released a [poll](#) that found voters favor **Hillary Clinton** over Mr. Trump on health care issues.

The poll found that 46 percent of voters feel Secretary Clinton shares their health care views, whereas only 32 percent prefer Trump. Furthermore, over half of respondents believe that Trump has not paid enough attention to health care issues on the campaign trail. Among those polled, most choose their party’s nominee. However, 11 percent of Republicans responded that Hillary Clinton shared their health care views over Mr. Trump. Similarly, 39 percent of independent voters named Clinton as the candidate who best represents their health care views, versus Trump’s 30 percent.

The survey also found that Democrats are more trusted than Republicans on a wide variety of health care issues including Medicare and Medicaid, drug costs, health care costs, and the government’s role in health care, the future of the Affordable Care Act, opioids, and Zika funding.

“When it comes to health care, the protecting and expansion of Medicare, and prescription drug prices, Secretary Clinton is the leader we want making the important decisions,” said President Roach.

Earlier this week, Sen. **Bernie Sanders** officially [endorsed](#) Secretary **Clinton** for President at an event in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He told supporters, “I intend to do everything I can to make certain she will be the next president of the United States.”

“We congratulate both Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders on their hard fought campaigns,” President Roach added. “Both candidates have advocated strongly for seniors, and we are pleased to have a united front in the battle for the White House.”

House Appropriations Committee Votes to Maintain Medicare’s SHIP Funding

Last week the House Appropriations Committee [voted](#) to preserve \$52 million in funding for Medicare’s State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

Previously, Senate Appropriations Committee members had voted to defund SHIP and leave millions of Americans without access to free Medicare counseling and assistance. Last year alone, SHIP assisted over 7 million Americans with coverage and drug options, appeals, billing issues and other problems.

Members of the Alliance sent nearly 900 letters to members of the House Appropriations Committee in support of the SHIP program. The Alliance was joined by 61 other organizations representing seniors and patient advocates, health care unions, elder law attorneys, social workers, and visiting nurses in urging the House to continue to provide individual advice for seniors about their health care choices.

“SHIP is a valuable program that helps millions of Americans understand complex Medicare coverage and services,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Our

members made their voices heard and fought to maintain funding for this program. There is now reason to be optimistic that SHIP will remain funded in the final House-Senate agreement.”

Social Security Lifts Millions More Children Out of Poverty

A Capitol Hill briefing on Tuesday addressed Social Security’s role in reducing child poverty. The Center for Global Policy Solutions released a [report](#) at the event that found millions more children under the age of 18 escape poverty due to Social Security than previously thought.

In 2014, 3.2 million children received benefits directly either as the surviving dependent of a parent or guardian who had died, the dependent of a disabled worker, or the dependent of a retiree. The report found that previous statistics under-counted the number of children who benefit from Social Security. The number of children who escape poverty doubles to 6.4 million when those in extended families are included. These children receive benefits indirectly, such as when grandparents or other family members with whom they live are beneficiaries.

The fastest growth is among the indirect beneficiaries. The number of minors in this category was up 6 percent since 2001. Overall, almost 1 in 10 Americans under the age of 18 rely on Social Security.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.