

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

August 12, 2016

Hillary Clinton Outlines Plans for the Economy

Secretary Hillary Clinton [outlined her economic plans](#) in Michigan yesterday.

In her speech, Secretary Clinton vowed to continue to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) before and after the November election, and to increase the minimum wage. She also promised to raise taxes on large corporations so all pay their fair share and fight the concentration of wealth in “the top 1 percent.”

Unlike her opponent, Clinton included retirement security and Social security in her remarks. “Protecting and expanding Social Security doesn’t just help older Americans retire with dignity, it helps to ease burdens on families and communities.”

“Hillary Clinton understands the importance of building an economy that works for everyone and has offered detailed plans for her approach,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Seniors and working Americans can depend on her to act in their best interests and protect their retirement security.”

Trump’s Economic Plan Puts Corporations First

Earlier this week Donald Trump presented his [economic plan](#) which doubles down on the failed Republican approaches of corporate tax cuts and deregulation.

Notably, Trump called for a 20 percent tax cut for corporations from the current 35 percent to 15 percent. He also called for individual tax cuts that would help the wealthiest Americans the most. Unsurprisingly Trump’s plan drew praise from some of the most notorious anti-worker individuals including billionaire investor **Carl Icahn**, who has praised Trump’s as being “right on the economy” and said that Trump’s plan would end government’s “war with business”. Retirees remember Icahn for his disastrous 1993 takeover of Trans World Airlines (TWA) and subsequent [pension termination](#) for more than 36,500 workers.

“Donald Trump’s economic plan disproportionately benefits big business and the wealthiest Americans,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “Trump has painted himself as a voice for the middle-class but his policies are heavily geared towards the rich. This economic plan will not contribute to economic growth, it will ensure the rich get richer while hardworking Americans struggle to make ends meet.”

New Medicare Law to Notify Patients of Loophole in Medicare Nursing Home Coverage

On August 6 the Notice Act [took effect](#), requiring hospitals to inform patients if they are “under observation,” but not formally admitted to the hospital as inpatients. Medicare patients under

observation do not qualify for Medicare's limited nursing home coverage and therefore incur significant out-of-pocket costs.

Many patients were unaware of their outpatient status while under "observation" and believed Medicare would cover their short term treatment in a nursing home. The new law, however, requires hospitals to notify and explain patients' status and coverage so they are not presented with unexpected medical bills.

"The Notice Act is an important step in helping patients understand the limitations of their coverage," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance, "but we must continue to fight for expanded Medicare coverage so Americans are not saddled with large medical bills."

Medicare currently covers up to 100 days of nursing home care which averages \$92,000 per year. In order to qualify for Medicare's nursing home care, a patient must first spend three consecutive days as a hospital inpatient.

Iowa Alliance Holds Convention

Members of the Iowa Alliance met in Ankeny this week. The convention theme was "ways to expand the reach of the Alliance," and members learned ways to build their networks and involve more retirees. The Iowa Alliance also honored the University of Iowa Labor Center with the 2016 **George J. Kourpias** Service to Seniors Award. Mr. Fiesta attended the convention, as did Labor Center Director **Jen Sherer**.

The Kourpias Award is named for George J. Kourpias, the first president of the Alliance. The Iowa Alliance has renamed the Kourpias Award to be the Kourpias-Rowan Award in the future, to honor **Don Rowan** as well - the first Iowa Alliance president and an Iowa labor leader.



Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance (second from left); Midge Slater, Iowa Alliance President (fourth from left); and Jen Sherer, Labor Center Director (second from right) with other University of Iowa Labor Center staff members