

FRIDAY ALERT



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Hillary Clinton Takes on Prescription Drug Prices

On Thursday **Hillary Clinton** promised to tackle [prescription drug prices](#) which, in 2015, increased by more than 10 percent. She singled out Gilead Sciences, known for its Hepatitis C drug that costs \$1,000 per pill and is not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

Secretary Clinton said Americans are “paying the highest price for those drugs that we have helped to create. We have got to take this on.”

“Prescription drug prices are out of control,” agreed **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “I am proud Hillary Clinton continues to fight against companies like Gilead. Now is the time to rein in Big Pharma and stop drug companies from price gouging hardworking Americans.”

For more about Hillary Clinton, retirement security, and seniors issues, see President Roach’s [video](#).

Alliance Members Celebrate Social Security’s 81st Birthday

Alliance members across the country celebrated Social Security’s 81st birthday, which took place on August 14. On Monday, members of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) [rallied](#) at the state capitol rotunda in Tallahassee. Activists then went to Sen. **Marco Rubio’s** office, voicing their opposition to his positions that favor cutting the program, such as raising the retirement age to 70. Radio, television and print media from across the state covered the event for all of Florida.



Barbara DeVane, Recording Secretary for FLARA and the lead planner of the event, said of the cuts, “Why would you want to put this on the backs of workers who have worked so many years? Why not put it on the backs of billionaires like **Bill Gates** and **Donald Trump**?”

Rich Templin, Political and Legislative Director for the Florida AFL-CIO, and **Nikki Barnes** from UniteWomen Florida also spoke. To commemorate the occasion, activists released new [reports](#) for every state showing how important Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are to seniors.

There are many photos from [Tallahassee](#) and [other celebrations](#), including Medicare’s 51st birthday on July 30.

Take Action - House Republicans Continue to Call for Cuts to Social Security

The Washington Post recently reported that House Republicans want to cut the Social Security Administration budget by \$250 million. In recent years the Social Security Administration (SSA) has already suffered a 10 percent budget reduction and been forced to decrease its services.

SSA budget cuts have resulted in field office closures, increased wait times for SSA’s helpline, agency hiring freezes, and delays in disability appeal decisions. In the past several years, the number of Americans who qualify for Social Security has grown by 12 percent, putting an even greater strain on SSA’s reduced budget and services.

“House Republicans’ continued effort to cut Social Security is intolerable,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We must take the fight to Congress. We must [write to our representatives](#) and urge them to fully restore SSA funding, not slash its budget. They must reject the House Labor, HHS appropriations bill, which underfunds the Social Security Administration.”

He continued, “Social Security is one of the most cost efficient programs in the country, and SSA provides benefits and services to millions of Americans. Its budget is less than 1% of the total program’s outflows and fully paid from payroll taxes paid by workers.”

President Obama to Take TPP Battle to the Heartland, with Eye on Lame Duck Session

The White House is ramping up its efforts to generate support for the [Trans Pacific Partnership \(TPP\)](#). In the coming weeks there will be 30 events nationwide focused on the benefits of TPP and America’s leading role in the global economy. These events are also meant to increase support from members of Congress in order to fast-track TPP’s approval in a lame duck session. The deal has strong support from business and big pharma.

“In the past global trade deals have put an end to millions of important American manufacturing jobs, and TPP would build on that legacy,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “This deal would clearly mean a cut to retirement benefits for more workers.”

He continued, “TPP will also have a tremendous impact on prescription drug prices. It will allow big pharma to oppose Medicare and Medicaid’s price-control measures. Prescription drug prices are already out of control and TPP would only help companies monopolize and continue to raise prices. This trade deal must not pass in a lame duck session.”