

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Hillary Clinton Continues to Address Skyrocketing Prescription Drug Costs

Hillary Clinton highlighted the EpiPen controversy as she [emphasized her plan](#) to take on Big Pharma over the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs. Prices for the EpiPen, a lifesaving treatment for people with severe allergies, have increased 500 percent in the past several years under the direction of Mylan Pharmaceuticals. **Heather Bresch**, CEO of Mylan, has said that the company will offer rebates to many consumers who rely on the devices, but Secretary Clinton said that is not enough.

“As Senator from New York and Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton has demonstrated that she will ‘promote the general welfare’ of seniors as President of the United States as it relates to health care and retirement security,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance.

He continued, “Throughout her career Secretary Clinton has fought for the issues retirees care the most about. Her statement on Mylan Pharmaceuticals illustrates that she is not afraid to take on companies that place their profit margins over the well-being of their consumers.

“The President will need the House and Senate to tackle these problems. We must deliver the White House for Secretary Clinton and also a majority of the U.S. House and Senate,” he added.

Donald Trump: Dangerous for Social Security and Pensions

Last week the **Donald Trump** campaign [began to air](#) an anti-immigration ad that incorrectly claims undocumented immigrants are “skipping the line” and collecting Social Security benefits.

Los Angeles Times’ columnist **Michael Hiltzik** wrote that the assertions about undocumented immigrants and the Social Security Administration (SSA) are false. There is no “line” for undocumented immigrants to skip in order to collect Social Security; they are not permitted to collect benefits. Furthermore, an authorized employee must work in covered employment for 40 quarters or 10 years in order to be “fully vested” in Social Security.

“This ad is the latest in a long line of misinformation from Mr. Trump,” said President Roach. “During this election cycle Trump has already misled the public on benefit fraud and favored ambiguous rhetoric about economic growth rather than presenting a coherent position on Social Security.”

Mr. Trump’s disingenuous position regarding Social Security extends to [pensions](#) and retirement security overall. According to the National Public Pension Coalition (NPPC), as a businessman, Trump contributes “one of the stingiest 401(k) plans allowed by law” to his own workers. In his financial disclosure reports for his campaign, however, Trump reports that he has a \$110,000 pension through the Screen Actors Guild.

Mr. Roach continued, “Donald Trump’s callousness towards his own workers does not bode well for the American people. He has continued to mislead the public about Social Security and despite his own pension, seems indifferent to the retirement security of his workers.”

California Assembly Approves Survivor's Rights Bill

On Monday the California State Assembly voted in favor of S.B. 1150, the [Survivor Homeowner Rights Bill](#), that expands the rights of homeowners’ surviving loved ones.

The Survivor Homeowner Rights Bill establishes communications requirements for mortgage loan servicers before they record a default notice following the death of a homeowner. The legislation will expand protections in the California Homeowner Bill of Rights to the widows and other survivors of homeowners so that they may keep their family homes.

The California Alliance for Retired Americans co-sponsored the bill along with the Housing and Economic Rights Advocates and the California Reinvestment Coalition.

The Over-Prescription of Drugs in America

The Washington Post recently [addressed](#) the problem of overloading older patients with prescription drugs.

Today’s seniors are bombarded with drug treatments from their doctors, some of which have been found to be “unnecessary or unsuitable.” A [study](#) of Veterans Affairs hospitals found that 44 percent of elderly patients discharged from hospitals had at least one unnecessary prescription. Many seniors can then accumulate these drugs and continue to take prescriptions that have little impact on their health.

Over-prescription of drugs can lead to drug-related complications and even additional hospitalizations. More often, however, it means that seniors simply do not benefit from more prescriptions and continue to pay for costly and unnecessary refills.

“Overprescribing drugs jeopardizes the health of retirees and is compounded by the issue of prescription costs,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Seniors’ health and wallets both suffer when unnecessary prescriptions are filled.”

Richard Fiesta Addresses APWU Retirees, A. Philip Randolph Institute

Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance, traveled to Detroit this week to speak at the A. Philip Randolph Institute National Education Conference on Thursday. Founded in 1965 by **A. Philip Randolph** and **Bayard Rustin**, the Institute advocates for social and economic justice and builds connections between the civil rights and labor movements.

On Saturday and Sunday Mr. Fiesta spoke to retirees at the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) convention in Orlando.

Obituary: Connecticut Alliance Member and Super-Activist William Tyszka

William (Bill) Tyszka, a beloved member of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans, passed away on Monday at the age of 81.

A retired high school teacher, Mr. Tyszka was a staunch advocate for retirees and active in the community working with the Alliance, AFSCME, and several other groups. Earlier this year he received the **Kevin Lynch** Award from the Connecticut Alliance at the 11th Annual Awards Luncheon.



Marilyn and Bill Tyszka with organizer Eda Dibiccari

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of Bill,” said Mr. Fiesta. “We are grateful for his work on behalf of seniors and we send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Marilyn, his children, and all of his friends and family.”

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.