

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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State Alliances Continue “Protect Social Security” Campaign around the Country

Alliance members continued to urge key Senators and Senate candidates to promise not to privatize or cut modest earned Social Security benefits this week.

“State Alliances have been working tirelessly to educate elected officials on the importance of Social Security,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Millions of retirees depend on their benefits for retirement security and we must continue to hold Senators and Senate candidates accountable to seniors.”



Dozens of Florida Alliance members in Jacksonville held Sen. Rubio’s feet to the fire on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the Florida Alliance (FLARA) held a press conference outside Sen. **Marco Rubio’s** office in Jacksonville to demand he protect Social Security for over 3 million retirees in Florida. The group, led by **Barbara DeVane**, Recording Secretary of FLARA, [called](#) on Sen. Rubio to stand up for seniors and improve last year’s zero percent voting record score from the Alliance.

Activists also held events in [Wisconsin](#), [North Carolina](#), [Ohio](#), and [Pennsylvania](#).

More photos and videos from the pledge campaign can be found on our Facebook [page](#).

Hillary Clinton's Vision for Universal, Quality, Affordable Health Care

On Wednesday, **Hillary Clinton** published an [article](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that outlines her vision for the future of universal health care in America.

The *Journal* asked both Secretary Clinton and **Donald Trump** to respond to the question, "What specific changes in policy do you support to improve access to care, improve quality of care, and control health care costs for our nation?" but only Secretary Clinton did so.

Secretary Clinton focused on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how to improve, not repeal it. The ACA provides millions of Americans access to comprehensive health care. It also offers free preventive care for seniors, lowers prescription drug prices, and eliminates preexisting condition exclusions.

In her plan, Secretary Clinton outlined how she will tackle universal health care once in office. She will increase outreach and enrollment and public choice in all states. Similarly, Secretary Clinton plans to expand Medicaid in states that refused to accept coverage so the 3 million Americans who are currently uninsured can have better access.

Furthermore, Secretary Clinton addressed health care affordability. She proposed a refundable tax credit for families up to \$5,000 for steep out-of-pocket costs and a limit on these out-of-pocket costs to \$250 per month. In addition, prescription costs will be reined in by allowing Medicare to directly negotiate with drug companies and removing obstacles to drug competition.

"Secretary Hillary Clinton has shown that she has the vision to improve health care for seniors and all Americans once in office," said President Roach. "We must support her in order to make that vision become a reality."

Early Voting has Already Begun in Several States

While Election Day is November 8, early voters in many places can either mail their ballots or go to polling centers that open weeks before that date. Voting opened September 19 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, making the town's voters among the first in the nation to cast their ballots.

In 37 states and the District of Columbia, voters can cast ballots early with varying degrees of ease. Wisconsin, South Dakota, Minnesota, New Jersey and Vermont were the first states whose voters were eligible to cast their ballots.

On Thursday voters in Iowa joined their ranks and could go to elections offices to cast votes in person. Illinois and Wyoming also started this week. To find out when voting begins in your state, [click here](#).

"It is always a good idea to cast your vote early, in case you aren't able to make it to the polls on Election Day," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

CMS Restores Nursing Home Residents' Rights, Prohibiting Pre-Dispute Forced Arbitration Contracts

This week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [ruled](#) that all federally funded nursing homes cannot force a pre-dispute arbitration agreement on their residents.

CMS's ruling means that families can hold nursing homes accountable when residents are harmed or neglected. Previously, families could be forced to sign binding agreements that they would not dispute the facility or its practices.

"This week's ruling is a victory for seniors and their families," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "The Alliance has been working to restore the rights of seniors to hold nursing homes accountable, and our efforts have been rewarded."

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.