

FRIDAY ALERT



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October 28, 2016

Donald Trump's Latest Scare Tactic: Claiming Clinton Will Cut Social Security and Medicare

Donald Trump this week repeated his [false claim](#) that **Hillary Clinton** will cut Social Security and Medicare benefits once in office.

Secretary Clinton, has promised to defend and even increase Social Security benefits. She supports expanding earned benefits for vulnerable groups including widows and caregivers by raising the payroll cap so wealthy Americans pay their fair share.

Clinton has never indicated she would cut Medicare benefits. In fact she would strengthen Medicare by allowing it to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies for lower prescription drug prices.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly called for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act that has extended Medicare's lifespan. He has supported Social Security and Medicare benefit cuts while acknowledging the unpopularity of the idea. In a 2011 interview, he endorsed the idea of reducing benefits but said politicians should avoid disclosing their plans.

"Donald Trump's claims are false," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "Secretary Clinton is running on one of the most progressive and senior-friendly platforms in history. It is Donald Trump who has supported benefit cuts and even called Social Security a 'Ponzi scheme.' Seniors cannot afford to be fooled by false claims."

New Polling: Americans Are United in Support of Expanding Social Security

On Wednesday, Social Security Works released a new poll that found a majority of Americans are united around Social Security expansion. The polling found that 72 percent of respondents support increasing Social Security benefits by raising the payroll cap so millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share into the program. This figure extended across age, gender, race, and party lines.

The poll found that Social Security expansion is supported by 87 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of Independents and 51 percent of Republicans.

Seventy percent of 18-29 year olds, 65 percent of 30-45 year olds, 76 percent of 46-65 year olds, and 70 percent of Americans over 65 support expansion. More detailed polling information and breakdowns can be found [here](#).

“Social Security is the bedrock of retirement security in America,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “It is not surprising that Americans are united around preserving and expanding this vital and successful program.”

Nevada Alliance Members Call in to Tele-town Hall with Catherine Cortez Masto

On Thursday, the Alliance held a tele-town hall with members in Nevada and Democratic Senate candidate **Catherine Cortez Masto**.

Ms. Cortez Masto, the former Nevada Attorney General answered members’ questions on Social Security, Medicare and prescription drug prices. She emphasized her support for scrapping the earnings cap to strengthen Social Security and ending profiteering by pharmaceutical corporations. Several Alliance members on the call said they had already cast their ballot for Cortez Masto through early voting.

Illinois Alliance Members Partner with Young Workers and Students to Encourage Voting

The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans' chapter, ChicagoMetro Retirees, is partnering with young workers and students to [get out the vote](#) for the November 8th elections. On Monday, they rallied and prepared to cast their early votes at the Cook County Clerk's office around the slogan of "Generations Voting Together" and "Bridging the Generational Gap".

Speakers at the rally included **Bea Lumpkin** from the Illinois Alliance, **Scott Marshall** of Steelworkers SOAR retirees, **Jaquie Algee** from SEIU Health Care, and **Esau Chavez** of Chicago Student Action.



Bea Lumpkin and Illinois Alliance members rallied with intergenerational allies in Chicago on Monday.

All pledged to continue their Intergenerational Alliance to win the elections for the right to an education, for retirement security, for \$15/hour minimum wage and health care for all.

In addition to the national issues, they spoke about the Illinois State crisis brought on by Governor **Rauner's** slashing of human services. Electing just 2 or 3 new state representatives could provide the veto-proof Democratic majority needed to reverse Governor Rauner's cuts.

Drug Lobby Adds \$100M to War Chest Ahead of Pricing Battle

Politico reported that PhRMA, the pharmaceutical lobby, is preparing for a post-election drug pricing legislative battle and has added [\\$100 million](#) to its war chest. It has increased its membership dues by 50 percent and will now have \$300 million at its disposal each year. PhRMA is already ranked among the biggest spending special interest lobbying groups in Washington. It has spent \$11.8 million so far in 2016, making it the fourth-largest lobbying powerhouse.

In recent years, prescription drug prices have skyrocketed and led to astronomical profits for pharmaceutical companies. However, millions of Americans are struggling to afford life-saving drugs such as insulin and EpiPens.

Both Democratic and Republican voters support price reductions by allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies and the importation of drugs from other countries. However, PhRMA hopes to forestall political action by fighting cost-saving measures such as a California ballot initiative, Prop. 61, to cap how much the state government pays for drugs. California Alliance members have been working hard in support of the ballot measure there.

“PhRMA is raising the money for a formidable lobbying effort,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “But all their money will go toward a losing cause if grassroots activists remain strong, active and vocal about the need for affordable drugs.”

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.