

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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October 7, 2016

Alliance Releases New Ad: “Tell Them to Expand Social Security, not Destroy It”

On Thursday, the Alliance launched a digital campaign ad in five states, calling on Senators and Congressmen to strengthen and expand Social Security, not destroy it. The ads feature children posing as retirees and stress the importance of the Social Security system to Americans of all ages. The ads target people ages 55+ in Florida, Pennsylvania, Nevada, North Carolina and Missouri. A Spanish-language version will target Latino audiences in Florida and Nevada.

Watch the ad [here](#).

“The ad supports the ongoing field and grass roots efforts by Alliance members,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Retirees are holding news conferences, demonstrations, and other events calling on officials to pledge publicly to support Social Security and reject privatization, benefit cuts, raising the retirement age or means testing.”

“Millions of retirees depend on Social Security’s modest earned benefits to make ends meet,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “These politicians have repeatedly worked to weaken the system, and replace Social Security’s guaranteed earned benefits with risk-based schemes. Our members are asking them to support current and future retirees’ right to the secure retirement they have earned.”

Each of the elected officials named in the ads has supported efforts to weaken Social Security and has also voted to slash funding for the Social Security Administration, increasing waiting times and lengthening decision-making times for retirees and other beneficiaries.

Florida Alliance and AFL-CIO President Trumka Call on Sen. Rubio to Protect Social Security

On Tuesday Florida Alliance members, joined by AFL-CIO President **Richard Trumka** and Mr. Fiesta, rallied outside Sen. **Marco Rubio’s** office in Tampa [urging him](#) to commit to protecting Social Security.

“Together, the AFL-CIO and the Alliance for Retired Americans are working to protect Social Security and Medicare from politicians like Marco Rubio who want to dismantle our nation’s most successful anti-poverty program for seniors,” said Mr. Trumka. “We’re not going to let anybody – anybody – cut Social Security or wreck Medicare.”

Sen. Rubio has said that Social Security and Medicare have “[weakened us as a people](#),” are “[bankrupting this country](#)”, and supports raising the retirement age. He also had a zero percent score from the Alliance on retiree issues in 2015.



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka joins FLARA members outside Sen. Rubio's Tampa office

Mr. Fiesta said, “Marco Rubio’s view that protecting retirees weakens us as a people is appalling. We are here to ensure that future generations have the same earned benefits that he and his family members have.”

Tampa was the Florida Alliance’s third event in recent weeks to get Sen. Rubio to sign the pledge to protect Social Security. FLARA President **Bill Sauers** said, “Refusing to sign this pledge sends a clear message about whose side he is on.”

The Alliance also held [events](#) this week calling on elected officials in Nevada, Pennsylvania, Missouri, North Carolina, and Wisconsin to protect Social Security.

Kaine-Pence Debate Highlights Why Democratic Ticket is Better for Retirees

Vice Presidential Nominees Sen. **Tim Kaine** (VA) and Gov. **Mike Pence** (IN) met at the sole vice presidential debate Tuesday night. Gov. Pence repeatedly diverted any discussion about strengthening Social Security to Trump’s proposed tax cuts for the wealthy.

“Governor Pence’s focus on tax cuts revealed that the Trump-Pence ticket considers current and future retirees a low priority, despite the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security for their retirement security,” said Mr. Fiesta.

“Pence earned just a 3% Lifetime Pro-Retiree Score in the Alliance for Retired Americans Voting Record, thanks to his votes in favor of Social Security privatization and ending Medicare as we know it by raising the eligibility age to 67 and turning it into a voucher system.”

Sen. Kaine reaffirmed his ticket's dedication to preventing Social Security privatization. He reiterated Secretary **Hillary Clinton's** promise to strengthen the system by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. Watch the exchange [here](#).

GOP Freshmen Senators Eye Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid "Reform"

Last week Congress sent its appropriations bill to President Obama; however, some [freshmen GOP senators](#) are dissatisfied with its content. They say the country needs "entitlement reform" and that programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid should not fall under mandatory spending.

Sen. **David Perdue** (GA) is a strong advocate of cutting spending and creating four annual spending bills. One such bill would be devoted to both Medicare and Medicaid and all other domestic health programs. Another bill would cover federal spending, discretionary and mandatory, on retirement programs including Social Security.

Other GOP Senators including **Dan Sullivan** (AK), **Mike Enzi** (WY), and Rep. **Tom Price** (GA) have been working with Sen. Purdue on spending cuts in an effort to reduce the federal deficit.

"This is another example of politicians using the deficit as an excuse to make it easier to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "It is also a timely reminder of what is at stake in the upcoming elections. We must expand these programs to meet the needs of beneficiaries, not cut them."