

# FRIDAY ALERT



## Alliance for Retired Americans

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October 27, 2017

Spanish version: [www.alianzadejubilados.org](http://www.alianzadejubilados.org)

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## House Votes for a Budget that Will Lead to Massive Medicare and Medicaid Cuts While Providing Tax Breaks for the Wealthy

The U.S. House voted [216-212](#) on Thursday to pass the same destructive 2018 budget that the U.S. Senate approved last week. Representatives did not offer any amendments to the resolution.

The [budget will lead to cuts](#) of nearly \$500 billion from Medicare and more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next 10 years, and paves the way for massive tax breaks for the rich. It will also add \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit.

“The government’s disregard for citizens, particularly older Americans, is palpable in this budget. Gutting much-needed safety nets for average Americans so that billionaires and corporations can line their pockets is beyond cruel,” said **Richard Fiesta**, executive director of the Alliance.

With passage of the 2018 budget, Republican leaders say this will turn to so-called tax “reform.” House Republicans will release their tax bill on November 1, but some details have already emerged, and many middle class taxpayers will pay more. [Click to see how families in your state may be affected.](#)

## Join the National Call-in Day November 2 – No Tax Breaks for the Wealthy

With the unveiling of the Republican tax bill set for November 1, and a U.S. House vote that could happen as early as November 13, the time to call your representative now.

[Sign up here](#) to be part of the Alliance’s call in day on November 2 and we will send you talking points and a reminder to make your voice heard.

The Republican Tax bill is bad for working families. It will:

- Slashes Medicaid and Medicare, which are essential for retirees and working Americans;
- Will add \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit.
- Will only benefit wealthy Americans.

Please make your voice heard on this important issue.

## Senator Flake Won't Seek Re-Election

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) surprised colleagues and pundits in Washington on Tuesday by [announcing that he will not run](#) for re-election in 2018. Flake, who has a 3% lifetime voting record from the Alliance, cited his positions on trade and immigration issues as being out of step with the current Republican party.

Flake was also out of step with a majority of Arizona voters, including members of the Alliance who have disapproved of his votes to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and for a budget that will lead to deep cuts to Medicaid and Medicare.



Alliance President Robert Roach stands with Arizona members in front of Senator Jeff Flake's office.

“Last month I accompanied many of our members on a visit to Senator Flake’s office in Phoenix to protest his vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act,” said President Roach. “We told him that Arizona needs a senator who will put the needs of Arizona seniors first. We look forward to electing a new senator who will fight for working families and protect our earned benefits, not promote unneeded tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest Americans.”

## Florida Alliance Urges Leon County State Attorney to Investigate Governor Scott

On Monday, Florida Alliance members [called on](#) State Attorney Jack Campbell to investigate Governor **Rick Scott's** (R-FL) involvement regarding the deaths of 14 seniors at a nursing home during the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Members [asserted](#) that the deletion of voicemails left by the nursing home for Governor Scott and the destruction of public records about the incident provided grounds for an investigation.

Nursing home staff say their calls for help went unanswered by the governor. But he contests these accounts, saying that officials returned the calls and then deleted the voicemails to make room for more.

“Floridians deserve answers about what led to these tragic deaths.” said **Joseph Peters**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Governor Scott’s office needs to be more forthcoming about its actions pertaining to these voicemails and its response to requests for help.”

Although State Attorney Campbell has [declined](#) to take up the case, [saying that](#) the governor’s account seems accurate and does not constitute a violation of Florida law, the Florida Alliance intends to continue to press for more action to protect retirees.

## **Annual Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15**

With open enrollment starting in less than ten days, it's the perfect time to do a “Medicare Check-up” and make sure that you are in the right Medicare insurance plan for your situation. Union Plus is pleased to offer the Union Plus Retiree Health Insurance Program to help Alliance members with their Medicare needs. This is a free service and there is no obligation to change your plan or enroll.

Learn about the coverage options available to you, including ways to potentially save money on your future out-of-pocket health care expenses. To speak to a licensed insurance agent at eHealth, an insurance broker specializing in the Medicare insurance plan needs of Alliance members, call [1-888-898-5304](tel:1-888-898-5304) (TTY users: 771) Monday - Friday between 8am - 8pm EST or visit [UnionPlusMedicare.com](http://UnionPlusMedicare.com).