

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Virginians Rally to Keep Local Social Security Field Office Open

Alliance members joined American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) **President J. David Cox** and other allies at a rally in northern Virginia on Thursday to protest the Social Security Administration's (SSA) plan to shut down the Rosslyn, Virginia local SSA field office. Alliance Executive Director **Rich Fiesta** and Alliance member **Cecile Heatley** both spoke at the event.

Ms. Heatley explained why she opposes the closure saying "I don't drive anymore. It would be very difficult" to get to a Social Security office if the Rosslyn office closes. In addition to being near a subway stop,

Heatley said the Rosslyn office has shorter lines and seats for people who are waiting. After hearing her story President Cox said, "she is the reason we are here!"



The SSA says it is closing the office because it can't find new office space in the community. The decision is nonsensical, and will make in-person Social Security services much harder to get for many residents. The next closest field office is in South Alexandria -- and is

not easily accessible by public transportation.

Mr. Fiesta put the closure in a broader context and urged more support for the SSA workforce, which has not grown as the number of beneficiaries continues to increase. "Social Security is the people's program, and we need people to run the program," said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Closing a Social Security field offices hurt beneficiaries by creating barriers for those with questions about their earned benefits."

Also joining the action were members of the American Federation of Government Employees, the Northern Virginia Labor Council and Social Security Works.

ALERT – ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT OUR EARNED BENEFITS

Proposed Trump Administration Rescissions Would Be a Disaster for Retirees

President **Donald Trump** plans to submit up to \$25 billion in federal spending cuts to Congress later this month. According to administration sources, he will take aim at rolling back parts of the budget enacted in February and [mandatory spending](#) items, including Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. If these so-called “rescissions” are approved by Congress, Republicans will be able to renege on elements of their budget deal and take the opportunity to slash “entitlements.”



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Head **Mick Mulvaney** already confirmed as much when he said that “Democrats probably won’t like” the mandatory spending adjustments included in the proposal. This could increase the likelihood of a government shutdown and diminish an already frayed relationship between lawmakers and the public.

Adding insult to injury, non-obligated agency funds from previous years [will be the chief source for cuts](#). This would be particularly devastating for the Social Security Administration, which is already [struggling with inadequate funding](#).

“It is absolutely appalling that the Trump administration and GOP leaders would pass a tax bill for the one percent and then try to clean up their fiscal mess by cutting seniors’ hard earned benefits,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Luckily, the president [won’t be able to fast-track](#) the rescissions through Congress because he plans to include “mandatory benefit programs” as part of the package.

That’s why we need you to [please sign our petition](#) and make your voice heard NOW!

May Kicks Off Older Americans Month

The month of May is Older Americans Month, an annual celebration of senior contributions to the nation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ theme for this year is “[Engage at Every Age](#),” encouraging Americans to do things that enrich their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

When President John F. Kennedy started Older Americans Month in 1963, [17 million living Americans](#) had reached their 65th birthday. Today, this number is much bigger. [Roughly 10,000 Americans have turned 65](#) each day since 2010, and will continue to do so for the next decade.

Watch our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more updates on what you can do to help current and future retirees throughout the month.

Come to the Alliance's National Membership Meeting in November

The Alliance will hold a national Membership Meeting at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, from November 13th to November 15th. Attendees will participate in advocacy and organizing workshops, elect officers and discuss issue resolutions and connect with other Alliance members from across the country.

“The membership meeting is one of the most important events hosted by the Alliance,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “It’s an opportunity for attendees to meet with fellow members, work out the details that are specific to their state, and dig into retiree issue approaches so that they can apply new knowledge at a local level.”

Questions? Contact Joni Jones at jjones@retiredamericans.org or 202-637-5377.

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.