

# FRIDAY ALERT



## Alliance for Retired Americans

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### Message on Medicare and Medicaid's 53rd Anniversary: Cut Cake, Not Health Care

Alliance members used the 53rd birthday of Medicare and Medicaid on Monday to demand that their elected officials protect health care for older Americans and reject budget cuts. Specifically they urged their representatives to oppose the FY 2019 House budget that would cut these programs and Social Security by over \$1.5 trillion combined over the next 10 years.

The Alliance held 25 events across the country on Monday and Tuesday alone, some of the more than 80 events scheduled as part of the Alliance's Anniversary Summer campaign calling attention to the continued importance of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to the well-being of older Americans.



Florida Alliance for Retired Americans members in Tampa [presented Retiree Hero awards to Senator Bill Nelson, Rep. Kathy Castor and staff for Rep. Charlie Crist](#) for their 100% voting record on retiree issues.

Rep. Kathy Castor and Sen. Bill Nelson with Florida Alliance members

In Port St. Lucie, Florida retirees presented Rep. **Brian Mast** with a "Retiree Zero" award for voting 0% with retirees in 2017.

Nevada Alliance activists also blanketed their state, with [11 events](#).

“The president and Republicans on Capitol Hill have proposed budgets that inflict deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “The administration wants \$1.3 trillion in cuts and congressional Republicans propose \$2 trillion, which is even worse. Make no doubt, these are an attack on seniors, children and vulnerable Americans. We will not take this lying down.”

“Congressional leaders claim that these cuts are needed to reduce the deficit -- a deficit that was created by enormous and unneeded tax cuts for the super rich and corporations,” added **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “It is simply unfair to balance the deficit on the backs of retirees when the wealthiest Americans are getting tax breaks they don't need.”

### **August 7 Elections to Watch: Missouri Prop A, Ohio's 12th Congressional District**

Voters in Missouri can repeal the anti-worker, “right-to-work” legislation passed by the legislature by **voting NO on Proposition A next Tuesday**. Right-to-work has led to lower wages for both union and non-union jobs and lower pension payments in the states that have adopted these laws, and defeating it in Missouri would represent [a significant win for the labor movement](#).



Missouri passed legislation in 2017 that allows workers to opt out of paying for collective bargaining, weakening their voice in the workplace. That legislation was supposed to take effect in August 2017 but was halted when Missouri Alliance activists joined members of the AFL-CIO and others to suspend the law by gathering enough signatures to put the measure to a public vote.

Missouri Alliance members have now helped the state AFL-CIO make more than 500,000 contacts with voters statewide in advance of the primary election.

President Roach criticized the Missouri bill and right-to-work in general as “disrupting retirement before it even begins. The Alliance stands with our union brothers and sisters to ensure that the ill effects

of right-to-work do not extend beyond its current borders.”

Also this Tuesday, **residents of Ohio's 12th Congressional District will go to the polls for a special election to elect a new Congressional representative**.

The Alliance is supporting the Democratic candidate, **Danny O'Connor**, because he is running to protect Social Security and Medicare. His opponent wants to raise the Social Security retirement age for all workers.

Local Alliance members are doing their part to elect O'Connor with phonebanking, canvas walks, and get out the vote (GOTV) events. Ohio Alliance President **Norm Wernet** joined representatives from the group "For Our Future Ohio" and allies at a [Monday event in Columbus contrasting the candidates](#).

## ***ALERT – ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE HEALTH CARE NOW*** **Republicans Seek Supreme Court Nominee's Confirmation Despite Hurdles**

Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** remains adamant that the confirmation process for President **Trump's** Supreme Court nominee, Judge **Brett Kavanaugh**, be completed before the midterm elections. Senate Republicans are working to accelerate the process, [cutting the U.S. Senate recess](#) short and [bypassing the National Archives](#) after learning it would take too long to secure documents that are needed to assess Kavanaugh's record during his time with **George W. Bush's** administration.

Throughout his tenure as a D.C. Circuit Court Judge, Judge Kavanaugh has [consistently ruled](#) against workers and threatened Americans' access to health care, indicating that he would [overturn the Affordable Care Act](#) if given the opportunity. A case that would rip coverage away from those with pre-existing conditions is already slated for the Supreme Court and could give Kavanaugh his chance if he is confirmed to the bench.

"Judge Kavanaugh is the wrong choice for older and working Americans," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "His record shows that he is not on the side of working people and that he will choose to tear down retiree health care rather than expand access and protect it for current and future generations. We strongly urge Senators to reject his nomination."

The shortened timeline desired by Republicans means we can't afford to wait. **Dial 866-828-4162 and say:**

- **Vote NO on Judge Kavanaugh's nomination.**
- **He has routinely ruled against working people and retirees, and threatens their access to health care.**

## **Super-Activist Bea Lumpkin Receives the Alliance's President's Award as She Turns 100**

Corresponding Secretary of the Chicago Metro Chapter of the Illinois Alliance **Beatrice Lumpkin**, a lifelong activist dedicated to workplace and social justice, is turning 100, and the Bea Lumpkin Centennial Committee is celebrating her life today in Chicago with her many friends.

The event will bring together Bea's admirers and fellow warriors from numerous walks of life to celebrate her as both an individual and a fighter for social justice, the working class, labor and civil rights. Executive Director Fiesta, who is attending the tribute, will present Ms. Lumpkin with the Alliance's President's Award in appreciation of a lifetime of community activism and commitment to the Alliance.

"Bea is a living legend and an inspiration, and the Alliance is truly honored to have her as a member," said Fiesta. "Her amazing accomplishments and generous spirit continue to show all of us what a life well-lived looks like."



A small sample of her professional achievements in her earlier years includes her work as an Associate Professor of Mathematics from 1967 to 1982 at Malcolm X College in Chicago and as a driving force behind multicultural curriculum advancement in the public schools of Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit and Portland, Oregon.

In 2017 at age 99, Bea helped launch INTERGEN, a coalition focusing on common issues and priorities of older and younger activists. Coalition members have

Bea Lumpkin with Rich Fiesta in Pittsburgh, PA - July 2018

teamed up for rallies and protests involving health care, the "Fight for 15" (\$15 per hour minimum wage), and Tuition Free Illinois.