



2019 Winter Legislative Toolkit
Challenges and Opportunities Facing Retirees



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2019 Winter Legislative Toolkit

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How to Use This Toolkit Organizer's Prompt

A lot is packed into this toolkit. In the subsequent pages you will find fact sheets, a storytelling minikit, our lobby kit, petition, letters to the editor and state banner request form. This is an outline of how best to use the parts of this toolkit.

Getting the Facts

Familiarize yourself with the six fact sheets in this toolkit. Each fact sheet has an ultimate ask for legislators. The set of asks for your legislative visit are included on your Lobby Visit Report Back form on which you can record the answers you receive from lawmakers.

- **Social Security Medicare 2019 Facts and Figures:** Share this annual fact sheet with members to empower them with the facts and figures around Social Security and Medicare. Use this as a leave behind during legislative lobby visits.
- **Social Security Expansion** – Introduces the Social Security Expansion Caucus and their goals to expand Social Security.
- **Prescription Drugs** – Outlines ways in which the cost of medicines could decrease through negotiation and other tactics. (Fact sheet forthcoming.)
- **NAFTA 2.0 Renegotiation** – Primary focus are the newly added provisions about patents for medicines that should to be removed before treaty is ratified by Congress.
- **Multi-Employer Pensions** – Addresses Multi-Employer pension issue and outlines a legislative solution to address them.
- **40% Excise Tax on Health Plans** - Explains how older workers and retirees would be affected and the need to repeal the 40% tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans. (Fact sheet forthcoming.)

Sharing Your Story

Because every issue has a story, we have included our Storytelling minikit. Before your legislative lobby visit, take time in a group to go through this minikit and for everyone to use the worksheet to outline one of their stories. The kit has prompts for stories, but you should also look at the issues addressed on the fact sheets to see if any of the asks you are making would impact your own life.





How to Use This Toolkit Organizer's Prompt

Scheduling Your Visit

The lobby kit has a full outline for your visit. Read through each step. Also included is a legislative calendar to give you some insight into when members of Congress may be in their districts. When you are ready, contact your local congressional offices and request meetings for your group with members of the House, Senate and or their staffs.

Register your meeting with the Alliance so we can send you membership counts for each congressional district for you to brandish during your visits.

Bring the fact sheets to your meeting and be prepared with your asks. Bring your report back forms and record the answers you receive from your representatives or their staffs.

Capture Your Efforts

Be sure to share pictures of your visit on the Alliance social media both early and often. Use the Photography Minikit in this package to optimize the composition and frame of your pictures. Send photos to Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org and share the photo the day of the event, at the beginning of the next week.

Reporting Back

After your visit, be sure to debrief with your group and make sure that everyone recorded the answers from your asks. Send a copy of your report back form to the state and national Alliance along with a photo of your visit.

We also want to lift up your stories. Share copies of the storytelling minikit worksheet with the state and national Alliance for inclusion in Friday Alerts and other Alliance media.

Share Your Meeting


The occasion of a legislative lobby visit serves as a great opportunity to communicate with your community about you activity. Be sure to notify members, affiliates and activists before your visit and invite them to join you.

After your visit, it's a good idea to plan to submit letters to the editor either before or after your visit to tell everyone what you did and the reasons why it's important.



February 2019


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Presidents' Day					
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
NOTES						

-  = House and Senate in Recess
- Blue Text = Federal Holiday, National Offices Closed
- Green Text = Holiday
- Red Text = Alliance Dates of Note

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day						ACA Anniversary
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOTES

-  = House and Senate in Recess
- Blue Text = Federal Holiday, National Offices Closed
- Green Text = Holiday
- Red Text = Alliance Dates of Note

April 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Budget Resolution Deadline			Good Friday (begins) National Alliance Office Closed		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Sunday						
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
NOTES						

 = House and Senate in Recess

Blue Text = Federal Holiday, National Offices Closed

Green Text = Holiday

Red Text = Alliance Dates of Note



Storytelling Minikit Workshop

Telling your story is one of most powerful tactics we have as organizers. It gives the reason as to why we show up and take action. Honing and sharing your story is your responsibility as an activist. Engaging and tracking the stories of your peers is your responsibility as an organizer.

Why do We Need Your Story?

- We need your story to build a retiree movement that can articulate with faces and examples the reason we organize and become active.
- The most important aspect of organizing is the why. Why do you do what you do is central to everything else. It's the purpose that drives your activism. Why do you remain an active retiree? What are you fighting for and why do you believe in it?

How Will You Use Your Story?

- During district and capitol lobby visits
- Speaking at press conferences and fulfilling TV, print, and digital news requests from journalists and reporters
- Testimony on Capitol Hill, before committees, and during hearings
- During membership meetings, rallies, protests, and direct actions
- In Alliance literature, online platforms, and recruitment materials

What Makes an Effective Story?

- Who you are
- Your experience
- Why you became an active retiree
- What still needs to happen
- Your ask: for change, action, and/or for others to share their story.





Storytelling Minikit Workshop

Story Starters

- Do you have a health condition that Medicare helps you address?
- Did you experience a relief in your health care costs with the passage of the Affordable Care Act?
- Have you ever fallen into the Medicare “donut hole?”
- Do you have diabetes, arthritis, or other expensive medication necessities?
- What do you fear would happen to you if Medicare is cut or privatized?
- What about your relatives? Would anything happen to them if Medicare were cut or privatized?
- What role does Social Security play in your life? How would it affect your life if Social Security were reduced?
- Do you have things you need but are unable to afford?
- How would it affect your life if Social Security benefits were to increase by \$100 per month?
- Have you had to make adjustments in your living situation due to financial or health issues such as moving in with adult children or other relatives?

Ok, I Have a Story to Tell, What’s Next?

- Use the Storytelling Organizer to structure your story.
- Edit your story to roughly 500 words so that you can deliver it in less than 5 minutes.
- Develop your ask.
- Practice telling your story with a friend or fellow Alliance member.
- Ask for their feedback.
- Plan to share your story at a membership meeting, rally, or action.
- Share your story with your State Alliance and the Alliance for Retired Americans team in Washington.
- Change the world.





Storytelling Minikit Workshop

Storytelling Organizer

Name:	Phone Number:
City:	State:
Email:	

My **name** is _____. I was a **member of** _____ union/workplace,
and or **worked as a** _____ for _____ **years**.

My **Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid/Prescription Drug** story is about _____

I became an active retiree after/because/when: _____

We still **need to see/work toward/fight for:** _____

My ask for you today is: _____

Please use back of this page for additional space.

Send copy for publication to mcampbell@retiredamericans.org





Photography for Action Best Practices

Why Take Pictures of your Action?

- Generates more engagement on social media
- Documents the work that people are doing
- Raises awareness about issues
- Motivates people to take action and get involved

The Dos and the Don'ts

Do:

- Take best-quality photos of people
- Focus on action-oriented photos
- Try to capture diverse groups of people
- Photograph people working or providing a service like making phone calls, writing post cards, etc.
- Try to capture an Alliance logo – from either a banner or someone's shirt – somewhere in your composition.

Don't:

- Use or post poor-quality photos (e.g., blurry, out of focus)
- Take photos of the backs of people's heads
- Use photos where people look bored or devoid of emotion
- Post photos without context
- Post photos in any online or print publication you don't have permission to use

Portrait v. Landscape

Your pictures will often look best when taken in **landscape mode**—simply tilt your phone or camera 45 degrees in order to capture the entire image. **Portrait mode** is best used when your subject is taller than it is wide. For example, one or two people and/or capturing a tall backdrop. Landscape works best for groups of people or capturing large gatherings.

Zoom with your Feet

As convenient as it is to zoom in on your subject when taking your picture, zooming will decrease the quality of your photo and you will end up with a more pixelated picture. Instead, try moving closer to your subject. It will make a huge difference in your photo.

Raise the Resolution

Some phones, digital cameras, and tablets allow you to choose what resolution you want to take photos at. The higher your resolution, the clearer your shot will be. Setting your camera's HDR settings to auto will allow you to take the highest quality pictures possible

Use the Viewfinder

You may miss out on a great photo if you try to take a picture of everything at once. Be sure to look for the person or people on whom you want to focus and get close to them so they fill the viewfinder. Avoid zoom, which can reduce the image quality.

Rule of Thirds

Most people like to put the subjects of their photos in the center of the frame. It might feel strange at first, but using the rule of thirds can make for much more interesting pictures.

The rule of thirds breaks the frame into three equal sections, both horizontally and vertically. The points where these lines intersect are where the focus of your photos should be. Some smartphone and tablet cameras have a setting that will place these lines in your viewfinder so you see them as you take your picture



Send us your Pictures! We want to be able to share all the great work you're doing, and raise awareness of all the important retiree issues you're fighting for. Please send all photos **immediately after the event** to mobilization@retiredamericans.org.



How to Structure Your Lobby Visit Best Practices

Identify Yourself and the Group You Represent.

Make sure the elected official knows who is in the room, and is clear about the Alliance's electoral power in the legislator's district.

Get the Meeting Started and Be Aware of the Time

Meetings usually are 45 minutes or less. Pay attention to the time. After introductions, say why you wanted to meet with the Member and what you hope to gain from the meeting.

State Your Position Clearly

Tell the elected official the key facts on your issue, being sensitive to what this particular legislator is interested in. Be clear and specific about what your position is on the issue.

Get the Elected Official to Take Action

Ask specific questions including how your elected official stands on your issue. Ask for a clear position on your issue, and do not give up until you have an unmistakable "yes" or "no." If the legislator is supporting you, ask for a specific action in support, such as holding a press conference with Alliance members.

Take pictures!

Take a picture of yourself before the meeting using their name plate as a backdrop. Ask the member or the staff member if you can take a picture together. Email copies to the Alliance in Washington, D.C and post on your Facebook page. (Refer to Photo Guide for more tips.)

Debrief

Talk with your group about how your meetings went, come to agreement on the minutes and what happened in the meeting, and discuss how you could refine your message in the future. Fill out the Lobby Report Back Form either online or on paper and get back to the national Alliance as soon as possible. This information is critical to our work advocating on behalf of retirees.

Follow Up

Write letters thanking the elected officials for their time and reminding them of commitments made to you during the meetings. Include any additional information they requested in the meetings.





LOBBY REPORT BACK FORM

Winter 2019

Member's State, District, and Name Visited: _____

Member or staff in visit: _____

Participants in meeting: _____

CIRCLE RESPONSE FROM MEMBER OR STAFF

ISSUE	PRO-RETIREE POSITION	ANTI-RETIREE POSITION	UNDECIDED
SOCIAL SECURITY EXPANSION	Supports the Expand Social Security Caucus to strengthen and expand Social Security benefits	Opposes the Expand Social Security Caucus and benefit expansion	Undecided
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Supports allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices for critical medicines	Opposes Medicare drug negotiations or favors only minor changes to the law that provide nominal cost savings	Undecided
Drug Provisions in NAFTA 2.0	Opposes provisions in NAFTA 2.0 that locks in patent protections and keeps drug prices high	Supports provisions in NAFTA 2.0 that locks in patent protections and keeps drug prices high	Undecided
MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSION	Supports a loan program, such as the Butch Lewis Act, to protect retirees' hard-earned benefits	Opposes a loan program, such as the Butch Lewis Act, to protect retirees' hard-earned benefits	Undecided
40% HEALTH BENEFITS TAX	Support Repeal of 40% excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans	Maintain 40% excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans	Undecided
MEDICARE	No cuts to Medicare	Supports means-testing higher income beneficiaries or using Medicare to pay for other priorities	Undecided
SOCIAL SECURITY	No cuts to Social Security	Supports raising the retirement age, the chained-CPI or cutting SSDI benefits for disabled beneficiaries receiving unemployment.	Undecided

Follow-up commitments from the member's office: _____

Follow-up commitments from the Alliance participants: _____

Any follow-up needs from the National Alliance: _____

Please fill out and submit immediately via fax to 202-637-5398 or via email to Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org.



The Many Faces of Social Security

- Nearly 177 million workers contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes.
- Nearly 63 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits:
 - 46.8 million people receive retirement benefits
 - 5.9 million people receive survivors' benefits
 - 10.1 million people receive disability benefits.

Average 2019 Monthly Social Security Benefit

- A retired worker: \$1,461
- A retired couple: \$2,448
- Disabled worker: \$1,234
- Disabled worker with spouse and child: \$2,130
- Widow or widower: \$1,386
- Young widow or widower with two children: \$2,876
- Maximum Monthly Social Security Benefit: \$2,861 (for worker retiring at Full Retirement Age).

***Did you know?** Social Security is an extremely efficient program, with administrative costs of only 0.7% of total expenditures!*

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2019: 2.8%

2019 Social Security & Medicare Contribution Amounts

- Social Security: 6.2% for both workers and employers. This contribution is paid on earnings up to \$132,900.
- Medicare: 1.45% for both workers and employers on all wages.

2019 Social Security Eligibility:

- Full Retirement Age: 66
- Early Retirement Age: 62 Taking early retirement can reduce Social Security benefits up to 30 percent.

Social Security: When & How to Apply for Benefits

- You should apply for Social Security benefits three months before the date you want your benefits to start. You can apply in one of the following ways:
 - Visit your local Social Security office. Call 1-800-772-1213 to find the nearest office.
 - Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call Social Security at TTY 1-800-325-0778.
 - Online: <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/rib>

The Many Faces of Medicare

- Nearly 177 million workers contribute to Medicare through payroll taxes.
- Approximately 58.4 million people receive Medicare benefits, including:
 - 50.3 million people age 65 and older
 - 8.8 million people with disabilities

2019 Medicare Part A (Hospital Coverage)

- Deductible: \$1,364 (first 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care)
- Coinsurance: \$0 (Days 1-60), \$341 per day (Days 61-90)

2019 Medicare Part B (Physician Coverage)

Individual's Income	Couple's Income	Your 2018 Part B Monthly Premium
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$135.50
\$85,001-\$107,000	\$170,001-\$214,000	\$189.60
\$107,001-\$133,500	\$214,001-\$267,000	\$270.90
\$133,501-\$160,000	\$267,000-\$320,000	\$352.20
\$160,001-\$499,999	\$320,001-\$749,999	\$433.40
Above \$500,000	Above \$750,000	\$460.50

For all Beneficiaries:
Part B deductible is \$185 and the Part B copayment is 20%.

2019 Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage)

- Monthly Premium: Varies by plan (higher-income consumers may pay more)
- Deductible: Varies by plan, \$415 maximum
- Doughnut Hole: \$3,820 - \$5,100. Beneficiaries in the doughnut hole will receive a 75% discount for brand-name drugs and a 63% discount on generics
- Cap on Out-of-pocket Costs: \$5,100 (prior to catastrophic, includes discounts)
- In addition to a monthly plan premium, high-income individuals will pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount as noted below:

Individual's Income	Couple's Income	Income-related monthly adjustment amount
\$85,000 or below	\$170,000 or below	\$0.00
\$85,001 - \$107,000	\$170,001 - \$214,000	\$12.40
\$107,001 - \$133,500	\$214,001 - \$267,000	\$31.90
\$133,501 - \$160,000	\$320,001 - \$320,000	\$51.40
\$160,001 - \$500,000	\$320,001 - \$750,000	\$70.90
Above \$500,000	Above \$750,000	\$77.40

Medicare: When & How to Apply for Benefits

- Generally, Medicare is available for people age 65 or older, younger people with disabilities and people with End Stage Renal Disease. If you are already receiving Social Security retirement benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B. If you want to apply for Medicare, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly>.

01/15/19





Expand Social Security

On September 13, 2018, a new Congressional Expand Social Security Caucus was established to protect and expand Social Security benefits. More than 150 Senate and House members have joined the caucus, which is led by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Representatives John Larson (CT-01), Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Raul Grijalva (AZ-03), Conor Lamb (PA-18) and Terri Sewell (AL-07).

The Alliance for Retired Americans supports an expansion bill that does the following:

- increases benefits for all current and future beneficiaries;
- requires that Social Security annual cost of living adjustments (COLA) be calculated using the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E). The CPI-E more accurately reflects the rising cost of goods and services used by older Americans than the current formula;
- increases the special minimum benefit for low-wage earners;
- helps widows and widowers by ensuring that surviving spouses receive 75% of the total household Social Security benefits that they received prior to their spouse's death; and
- increases the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds by raising the cap on earnings subject to Social Security contributions, which is capped at \$132,900 in 2019.

Join Social Security Expansion Caucus

The Alliance for Retired Americans asks all members of Congress to join the Expand Social Security Caucus as the first step in demonstrating their commitment to strengthening and expanding Social Security for current and future generations.



On November 30, 2018, President Trump signed the renegotiated NAFTA trade deal and put Congress on notice that it will send lawmakers a bill to implement the United States- Mexico-Canada (UMSCA) Agreement, also known as NAFTA 2.0. Congress must vote to approve the agreement for it to be finalized; a NAFTA 2.0 vote is likely to happen in 2019. The trade agreement contains provisions that could affect drug prices for all Americans, including seniors, by locking *out* generic competition for long periods and locking *in* new patents on old drugs when minor tweaks are made (such as a new shape or higher dosage). It would also jeopardize the U.S. government's ability to lower drug prices for taxpayers and patients in the future.

NAFTA 2.0 Locks in Patent Protections for Drugs & May Block Future Reform

The United States grants lengthier patents and other regulatory protections to pharmaceutical corporations than other countries do. The U.S. Trade Representative, at the urging of pharmaceutical companies, pressured Mexico and Canada to provide U.S.-level protections and set them in stone as part of the NAFTA 2.0 agreement. In doing so, our country's ability to reform patents and other monopoly provisions for medicines would be in jeopardy and high prescription drug prices for all of us would be set in stone.

Exclusivity for biologics: NAFTA 2.0 locks in a lengthy exclusivity period for biologics, drugs used to treat various types of cancer or chronic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis. They include many drugs, such as Humira and Neupogen, commonly prescribed to seniors. The agreement protects pharmaceutical corporation monopolies and profits at the expense of patient access to life-saving medicines, preventing reform that would reduce the exclusivity period to less than 10 years.

Evergreening: NAFTA 2.0 requires countries to grant "evergreen" patents or patent extensions for small changes in the formula, dosage or administration of a drug, regardless of whether these minor alterations improve the efficacy of the drug. This also prevents the development of generic versions and extends corporate monopolies.

ASK

Members of Congress should insist on the removal of extraordinary monopoly protections for pharmaceutical firms in the revised North American Free Trade Agreement. Failure to strike these provisions from the pact will provide huge giveaways to Big Pharma and keep medicines unaffordable.

On November 30, 2018, the Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension plans adjourned without issuing any recommendations to improve the solvency of multiemployer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

Multiemployer pension plans are collectively bargained pension plans maintained by more than one employer, usually within the same or related industries – such as construction, retail, manufacturing, transportation, mining – and a labor union.

The Problem

More than one million Americans depend on multiemployer pension plans for their retirement. Over 100 multiemployer pension plans are likely to fail within the next 20 years, which will jeopardize the retirement income of the workers and retirees in these plans. The largest plan at risk is Central States, a Teamster plan. Other plans at risk include the United Mineworkers Pension Fund and the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Pension Fund.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), created as a federal backstop to protect beneficiaries in the event of a plan failure, only has \$2.2 billion in assets backing multiemployer plans—and it needs \$67 billion in assets just to support the pension obligations for plans that have already failed. By 2025, the PBGC multiemployer insurance fund could run out of the cash it needs to support the pension plans it already has taken over, or is on the verge of taking over right now. The collapse of the Teamsters Central States Plan alone would bankrupt the PBGC. This means that the participants and retirees in other failed multiemployer pension plans will have no pension insurance, and they potentially could lose their entire pension benefit, which they earned after a lifetime of work.

Addressing the Problem

Legislation sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Representative Richie Neal (D-MA) would provide low-interest, 30-year loans to troubled plans in critical and declining status. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the loan program would cost \$32 billion over 10 years, far less than the \$101 billion it would cost retirees and taxpayers if the PBGC were to fail. Providing federal assistance or a loan guarantee to troubled entities is not unprecedented. For example, after the 2008 housing crisis Congress provided \$280 billion to Citigroup, \$180 billion to AIG, and \$142 billion to Bank of America. In 1989, Congress provided \$293 billion to the Savings and Loan industry.

The Ask

The Alliance for Retired Americans urges Congress to enact a federal loan program, like the legislation introduced by Senator Brown and Representative Neal (H.R. 397), to rescue troubled multiemployer pension plans and protect the earned pension benefits of over one million hard-working Americans. (Senator Brown has not yet filed his bill, called “the Butch Lewis Act” this Congress).

Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT) has introduced the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act, H.R. 748, which would repeal the 40% excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans. Often referred to as the “Cadillac tax” by its supporters, it was rooted in the mistaken belief that many high premium employer-sponsored health plans were overly generous and raised the cost of health care because individuals were over-utilizing the system. The tax is intended to help defray the cost of expanding health benefits to cover uninsured individuals, pitting one group of Americans against another. **Congress has delayed the implementation of the law but the tax will go into effect in 2022, unless it is repealed.**

What is the health benefits tax?

The health benefits tax imposes a 40 percent excise tax, assessed on the cost of coverage on health plans that exceed an annual limit (\$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for self and spouse or family coverage). Health plans that cover older Americans and workers in dangerous occupations have a higher annual limit, plans that cover those individuals will still be affected. According Johns Hopkins University researchers, in the first decade of the tax’s implementation, 75% of employer-sponsored plans will be hit by the tax in the first decade of its implementation.

Many factors play a role in the cost of health plans. The gender, age, health status, occupation risk of the workers covered, or the region where the plan is based, all determine a plans cost.

Who will be affected?

Women, disabled people, workers in high risk occupations, and older Americans, particularly those in poor health or with chronic and costly medical conditions, will be hurt by the tax. Some employers are already scaling back employee’s health coverage to avoid being assessed the tax. Others employers are shifting more costs to employees by way of higher premiums and deductibles. Retirees will also likely be affected, as employers may reduce benefits for early retirees who are younger than 65 and eliminate supplemental coverage for 65+plus Medicare-eligible retirees altogether.

Many union members and retirees have forsaken raises to get good health coverage. Implementation of the Health Benefits tax threatens their health coverage.

Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) introduced the Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act (S. 377 and H.R. 1046) on February 7, 2019. This legislation will require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical corporations, the way the government does now for Medicaid, the Defense Department and the Veterans Administration (VA). If negotiations fail, the government is authorized to license patents in order to foster generic competition.

Drug prices under Medicare Part D have continued to rise and are projected to increase annually by 4.7 percent between 2016 and 2026. This increase will not only affect federal drug spending, but also beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs.

Key provisions include:

- **Negotiations** – Current law explicitly prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of Medicare, which provides insurance for more than 58 million Americans. This legislation will change that.
- **Provide Competition** – If a drug manufacturer refused to offer a reasonable price, H.R. 6505 gives the Secretary the tools to bring them back to the negotiating table. The Secretary, taking into consideration factors such as financial burden on patients and the drug's effectiveness, can license patents or other exclusivities related to the drug so that qualified generics can enter the market and compete. This is a fallback position intended only when negotiations fail.
- **Originator's Innovation Protected** - Under a competitive license, the patent holder would be paid a royalty rate based on research and development costs and the health benefits derived from the drug.
- **Savings** - Medicare Part D pays on average 73% more than Medicaid and 80% more than the VA for brand-name drugs. Medicare could save taxpayers and consumers \$16 billion a year if it secured VA prices.



I Pledge to support legislators who join the Social Security Expansion Caucus Petition

Name		Signature	
Address	City	State	ZIP
Email	Cell Phone *	Home Phone	

Name		Signature	
Address	City	State	ZIP
Email	Cell Phone *	Home Phone	

Name		Signature	
Address	City	State	ZIP
Email	Cell Phone *	Home Phone	

Name		Signature	
Address	City	State	ZIP
Email	Cell Phone *	Home Phone	

Name		Signature	
Address	City	State	ZIP
Email	Cell Phone *	Home Phone	

* By providing your cell phone number you agree to receive automated calls and text messages from the Alliance for Retired Americans. Message and data rates may apply.

Please send completed copies via fax to 202-637-5398 or via email to: Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org.



**2019 State Alliance Banner
Request Form**

State Alliance: _____ **Request Date:** _____

Requester Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Shipping Address: _____

Name of Individual displaying banner: _____

Will banner be on display when not in use? (for example, in a union hall, State Fed office, etc...?)

☐Yes ☐No ☐Partial

If yes, what is the location banner will be displayed? _____

Where else in your state (if any) are there State Alliance banners? (Please list cities):

Will you commit to displaying this banner at the location and time of Alliance meetings?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Maybe

Will you commit to using this banner at every photo opportunity?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Maybe

Thank you for work and dedication.

After completing this form, please return it to Michelle Campbell at mcampbell@retiredamericans.org.