



**2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit**  
End the Pandemic, Expand Social Security &  
Lower Drug Prices Now



Alliance *for* Retired Americans®

## 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

### Table of Contents

How to Use this Toolkit	Page 1-2
<b>Lobby Visits</b>	
Legislative Calendar	Page 3-5
How to Structure your Lobby Visit	Page 6
Lobby Day Talking Points	Page 7-9
Lobby Visit Report Back Form	Page 10
<b>Fact Sheets</b>	
Social Security-Medicare Facts and Figures	Page 11-12
Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability Act	Page 13
Social Security Fairness Act of 2021	Page 14
<b>Mobilization</b>	
Personal Storytelling Minikit	Page 15
Sample Letters to the Editor	Page 16
Petition - Tell USPS: DeJoy's Got to Go	Page 17





## 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit How to Use This Toolkit

Welcome to the 117th Congress. This is your Alliance for Retired Americans 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit. Please take advantage of the information and materials found throughout this toolkit to help ready you and your fellow activists for the Presidents Day Legislative recess, the week of Monday, February 15th.

This kit has three sections: The first section contains everything you will need to request, hold and report on virtual district lobby meetings with representatives. The second section contains fact sheets to support your work and in the third section you will find materials to take your mobilization beyond your meetings.

### Lobby Visits

#### Scheduling Your Visit

The lobby kit has a full outline for your visit. Read through each step. When you are ready, contact your local congressional offices and request virtual meetings for your group with members of the House, Senate and or staff. The Alliance zoom account is available to host your meetings if it is helpful. [Use this tracker for this and any other requests](#). Hold a pre-visit meeting with your group to organize speaking order and asks. Bring the lobby day talking points and fact sheets and report back form to your meeting.

#### Reporting Back

Be sure to take a screenshot picture of your visit. Be sure to debrief with your group immediately following your visit and make sure you have all the responses for the report back form. [Complete the online report back form](#) and send pictures to [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org).

### Fact Sheets

Familiarize yourself with the 2021 Fact Sheets in advance of your visits. While we are at the start of the legislative calendar, the index of fact sheets for this year will continue to expand

- **Social Security and Medicare Facts and Figures** – Annual fact sheet with all the facts and figures you need to be an effective advocate for preserving and expanding these critical earned benefits.
- **Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability Act** – A pandemic should not be an opportunity to profit. This critical piece of legislation would make it illegal.
- **Social Security Fairness Act** – H.R. 82 would repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.



## 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

### How to Use This Toolkit

#### Mobilization

##### Sharing Your Story

Because every issue has a story, we have included our Personal 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.

Personal storytelling is one of the most powerful tools for change. As you and your group collect and hone your personal stories, share them with

[Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org) for inclusion in future advocacy actions.

##### Letters to the Editor

The occasion of a legislative lobby visit serves as a great opportunity to communicate with your community about your 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 to tell everyone what you did and the reasons why it's important.

##### Petition Your Government

A government for the people, by the people responds to an organized statement from people. The Alliance for Retired Americans is working in solidarity with allies to petition the United States Postal Service Board of Governors to remove Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. [Add your name today!](#)

# February 2021

January '21							March '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

# March 2021

February '21							April '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23 ACA Anniversary	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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

# April 2021

March '21							May '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 Good Friday - Nat'l Office Closed	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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



## How to Structure Your Lobby Visit Best Practices

### Request Lobby Visit

Contact the local district office, introduce yourself, who you are with and that you would like to request a virtual district lobby meeting with the member of Congress during the Presidents Day recess.

### Report Lobby Visit and Hold Planning Meeting

Once your date is set, call a meeting of Alliance members who plan to participate in the visit. Review the talking points and fact sheets and assign speaking roles. Members of the national Alliance team are available to join this practice upon request. [Submit the details of the lobby visit using this tracker](#).

### Identify Yourself and the Group You Represent

Make sure the elected official or their staff 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 or their staff the key facts on your issue, being sensitive to what the 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 about where 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 screenshot picture of your virtual meeting to post and send to the national Alliance.

### Debrief and Follow Up

Talk with your group about how the meeting went, come to agreement on the minutes and how the legislator responded according to the Lobby Report Back Form. Designate a member of your group to [send the report using this form](#) and send pictures to [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org). Write letters thanking the legislator and their staff for their time and remind them of the commitments made to you during the meeting. Include any additional information they requested in the meeting.







## Lobby Day Talking Points 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

### Agenda to Strengthen Retirement Security

#### End the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID Pandemic continues to devastate the country. More than 430,000 Americans have lost their lives, and more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those were over the age of 65.

Ending this deadly pandemic is critical. It is not only putting our health at risk, but wreaking havoc on the economy.

Our economy shrank 3.5% in 2020, which hurts all Americans.

A new relief package is overdue and must include:

- Funding for additional PPE and greater vaccine production and distribution in order to vaccinate Americans, including older Americans who make up 80% of COVID deaths;
- Funding for state and local governments, which saw shrinking tax receipts due to the pandemic, to prevent further layoffs or furloughs, to fund first responders and provide public services;
- Extending Unemployment Benefits beyond March;
- Greater stimulus payments to families, including retirees; and
- More housing and nutrition assistance for those struggling to pay for food and housing.

#### Expand Social Security

We earned OUR Social Security benefits through years of hard work. We paid for it, and it should not be cut to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy or other things.

This Congress must take action to strengthen and expand Social Security by making the wealthy pay their fair share into the system.

In 2021, the wealthiest Americans stopped contributing to Social Security by January 4, having satisfied their obligation under current law.

If these Americans paid the same percentage of their income into Social Security as working people do, benefits can be increased for current and future retirees, AND the Trust Fund will be more solvent. Today a worker in an Amazon warehouse pays a higher percentage of their income than Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who doesn't even pay the maximum Social Security tax because of his compensation structure.



## Lobby Day Talking Points 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

Congress must also resist any effort to cut Social Security. A change to the retirement age or changing rules to make it harder to get Social Security disability benefits are CUTS and we must avoid that.

### Strengthen and Expand Medicare

We earned OUR Medicare benefits through years of hard work. We paid for it.

Medicare must be strengthened and expanded. The average retiree pays \$5,000 in out of pocket medical expenses not covered by Medicare each year.

Medicare experts predict that spending on prescription drugs will outpace growth of other health spending. Reining in the cost of prescription drugs, by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices the way that Medicaid and the VA do today, would save taxpayers billions each year. The drug prices Medicare negotiates should also be made available to all insurers, which will benefit all consumers.

Congress should direct Medicare to take the \$450 billion in savings from drug negotiations savings and use it to expand benefits for vision, dental and hearing.

### Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs and they are going up every year. Seniors are bearing the brunt of this, because they need more medicines to stay healthy.

Pharmaceutical corporations are raking in record profits. And they are spending millions to prevent Washington from taking action.

25% of seniors report not taking a drug their doctor prescribed due to cost.

### Rein in Anti-competitive Pharmaceutical Industry Practices

Congress should also enact the Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability Act (H.R. 597), sponsored by Representative Jan Schakowsky, D-IL, which would strengthen oversight of federal dollars used for vaccine research and development and prevent price gouging.

The federal government has spent tens of billions of taxpayer dollars on research and development (R&D) of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, including \$23 billion for manufacturing and purchasing. Despite this public investment, there is no guarantee that these taxpayer-funded drugs will be affordable, accessible, or available to all those who need them.



## Lobby Day Talking Points 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

By prohibiting exclusive licensing and ending monopoly control, H.R. 597 ensures universal access to all taxpayer-funded drugs used to treat or prevent COVID-19 or any other diseases during a public health emergency and ensures its affordability.

### Protect Earned Pension Benefits

We have earned our pension benefits over a lifetime of work, often giving up salary increases or other benefits to protect them.

Retirees and workers should not lose their hard-earned pension benefits when corporations go bankrupt or when employers do not fund them.

The government was quick to provide corporate bailouts for Wall Street after the 2008 recession. It should be equally willing to protect retirees whose pension benefits are at risk.

Congress should include the pension relief provisions for multiemployer pensions in any COVID-19 relief package.

### Repeal WEP and GPO

Congress should pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), which would repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP and GPO provisions claw back the Social Security benefits of workers or their spouses or survivors, if they worked for a period of time in jobs not covered by Social Security.



## LOBBY REPORT BACK FORM 2021 Winter Legislative Session

Representative's Name, State and District: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative or staff in visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Alliance Participants in Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

### CIRCLE RESPONSE FROM MEMBER OR STAFF

ISSUE	PRO-RETIREE POSITION	ANTI-RETIREE POSITION	UNDECIDED
COVID-19 Relief	Supports funds for state and local governments, first responders and extended benefits beyond March	Opposes a relief bill that tackles problems caused by the pandemic	Undecided
Social Security	Supports raising the contribution cap in order to expand benefits and strengthen the Trust Fund	Opposes increasing benefits, strengthening Social Security and holding contributions in place	Undecided
Medicare	Supports Medicare expansion to cover vision, hearing and dental	Opposes Medicare coverage of vision, hearing and dental	Undecided
Prescription Drug Prices	Supports lowering costs through negotiations, like the Veterans Administration	Opposes lowering the cost of life saving prescription drugs	Undecided
Pension Protections	Supports pension relief for multiemployer pension	Opposes retirees receiving their pension benefits	Undecided
WEP/GPO	Supports H.R. 82 to repeal WEP/GPO & restore spousal and survivor benefits	Opposes the restoration of earned Social Security benefits.	Undecided

Follow-up commitments from the Representative's office: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow-up commitments from the Alliance participants: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any follow-up needs from the national Alliance: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and submit immediately using the online [Lobby Visit Report Back Form](#) or via email to [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org).



# Social Security and Medicare: Current Facts and Figures

## The Many Faces of Social Security

- Nearly 180 million workers contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes.
- Nearly 65 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits:
  - 49.4 million people receive retirement benefits
  - 5.8 million people receive survivors' benefits
  - 9.6 million people receive disability benefits.

## Average 2021 Monthly Social Security Benefit

- A retired worker: \$1,543
- A retired couple: \$2,596
- Disabled worker: \$1,277
- Disabled worker with spouse and child: \$2,224
- Widow or widower: \$1,453
- Young widow or widower with two children: \$3,001
- Maximum Monthly Social Security Benefit: \$3,148 (for worker retiring at Full Retirement Age).

## Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2021: 1.3%

## 2021 Social Security and Medicare Contribution Amounts

**Social Security:** 6.2% for both workers and employers. This contribution is paid on earnings up to \$142,800.

**Medicare:** 1.45% for both workers and employers on all wages.

## 2020 Social Security Eligibility

**Full Retirement Age:** 66

**Early Retirement Age:** 62 (taking early retirement can reduce Social Security benefits up to 29.2 percent)

## Social Security: When and How to Apply for Benefits

Generally, you should apply for Social Security benefits four months before the date you want your benefits to begin. Click here for more information on when you can apply for Social Security: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/>. 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 180 million workers contribute to Medicare through payroll taxes.
- Approximately 62.7 million people receive Medicare benefits, including:
  - 54.3 million people age 65 and older
  - 8.4 million people with disabilities

### 2021 Medicare Part A (Hospital Coverage)

**Deductible:** \$1,484 (first 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care)

**Coinsurance:** \$0 (Days 1-60), \$371 per day (Days 61-90)

### 2021 Medicare Part B (Physician Coverage)

For all beneficiaries: Part B deductible is \$203 and the Part B copayment is 20%.

Individual's Income in 2019	Couple's Income in 2019	Your 2021 Part B Monthly Premium
\$88,000 or less	\$176,000 or less	\$148.50
\$88,001-\$111,000	\$176,001-\$222,000	\$207.90
\$111,001-\$138,000	\$222,001-\$276,000	\$297.00
\$138,001-\$165,000	\$276,001-\$330,000	\$386.10
\$165,001-\$499,999	\$330,001-\$749,999	\$475.20
\$500,000 and Above	\$750,000 and Above	\$504.90

### 2021 Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage)

**Monthly Premium:** Varies by plan (higher-income consumers may pay more)

**Deductible:** Varies by plan, \$445 maximum

**Doughnut Hole:** \$4,130 - \$6,550. Beneficiaries in the doughnut hole will receive a 75% discount for both brand-name and generic drugs.

**Cap on Out-of-pocket Costs:** \$6,550 (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 in 2019	Couple's Income in 2019	Income-related monthly adjustment amount
\$88,000 or below	\$176,000 or below	\$0.00
\$88,001 - \$111,000	\$176,001 - \$222,000	\$12.30
\$111,001 - \$138,000	\$222,001 - \$276,000	\$31.80
\$138,001 - \$165,000	\$276,001 - \$330,000	\$51.20
\$165,001 - \$499,999	\$330,001 - \$749,999	\$70.70
\$500,000 and Above	\$750,000 and Above	\$77.10

### Medicare: When and How to Apply for Benefits

Medicare is available for people age 65 or older, younger people with disabilities and people with End Stage Renal Disease. If you sign up after you turn 65, you may be penalized unless you have other coverage.

For information about when to apply for Medicare go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). To apply for Medicare, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).





# Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability (PTAA) Act

Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Peter Defazio (D-OR) introduced the Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability (PTAA) Act, H.R. 597, on January 28, 2021. Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. H.R. 597 establishes critical protections against drug price gouging amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal government has spent tens of billions of taxpayer dollars on research and development (R&D) of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, including \$23 billion for manufacturing and purchasing. Despite this public investment, there is no guarantee that these taxpayer-funded drugs will be affordable, accessible, or available to all those who need them.

## Access to COVID-19 Drugs for All Who Need Them

By prohibiting exclusive licensing and ending monopoly control, H.R. 597 ensures universal access to all taxpayer-funded drugs used to treat or prevent COVID-19.

## Ensures Affordability

H.R. 597 mandates reasonable and affordable pricing for new, taxpayer-funded drugs that are used to treat or prevent COVID-19.

## Greater Transparency

Drug corporations must publicly report specific breakdowns of their total expenditures, including the amount which came from taxpayer dollars, related to any drug used to treat or prevent COVID-19.

## Prevents Price Gouging

H.R. 597 blocks excessive pricing of drugs used to treat any disease that causes a public health emergency, not just the COVID-19 pandemic.

Drug price gouging is a threat:

- Drug corporations used a \$50 billion windfall from the 2017 tax bill for stock buybacks rather than lowering prices or investing in the development of new drugs;
- Drug prices continue to escalate. In 2020, drug corporations raised the prices of more than 400 drugs by more than five percent with no explanation;
- Remdesivir was developed with \$70.5 million of taxpayer dollars, yet there is no requirement that the medication be affordable. In fact, on June 29, 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, Gilead increased the price of their drug Remdesivir -- one of the drugs approved to treat COVID 19 -- by 30% to \$3,120 for a five-day treatment.



## Social Security Fairness Act

On January 4, 2021, Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL) introduced the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), which would repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP and GPO provisions claw back the Social Security benefits of workers or their spouse or widow(er), if they worked for a period of time in jobs not covered by Social Security.

### The Windfall Elimination Provision

The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of a public sector worker who collects a pension from a job not covered by Social Security. Four percent of retired workers or nearly 2 million retirees were affected as of December 2019. These workers are retired federal, state and local government employees who worked as teachers, police, firefighters, postal workers and general employees. While the WEP provision intended to reduce over-generous Social Security payments, the adjustment formula has no way to differentiate between a high paid public sector worker and a low paid worker. The effect is that it reduces benefits disproportionately for lower-income households.

### The Government Pension Offset

The GPO reduces the spousal or survivors Social Security retirement benefits of a worker who collects a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security. The individual's Social Security spousal or survivors benefits are reduced by two-thirds of the amount of their government pension.

The reduction is recalculated each year, when the retiree receives a cost-of-living increase in their pension, further reducing the benefit. In some cases, if two-thirds of the individual's government pension is greater than their spousal benefits, their Social Security spousal benefits are reduced to zero. As of December 2019, 707,879 Social Security beneficiaries had spousal or survivors benefits completely eliminated or partially reduced by the GPO. The GPO has a particularly harsh effect on moderate-and low-income pensioners, especially women, who represent eighty-three percent of those affected by the GPO and are more likely to fall into poverty as they age.

Some beneficiaries are subject to both the WEP and the GPO. As of December 2018, 263,775 Social Security beneficiaries were affected by both the WEP and the GPO.

### Which public sector workers are affected?

- Many teachers in 15 states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas
- Many state, county, city and special district employees around the country
- Federal employees (hired before January 1, 1984) who are on the CSRS retirement system in every state
- Retirees in every state who worked in the jobs mentioned above





## Personal Storytelling Minikit 2021 Winter Legislative Session

### Personal Storytelling is one of the most Powerful Tools to for Change

It conveys why action is needed and inspires others to join us. Personal stories get the attention of the media and can convince elected officials to act.

Honing and sharing your story is your responsibility as an activist. Engaging and tracking the stories of others is your responsibility as an organizer.

### Why do We Need Prescription Drug Stories?

- We need to find people who are experiencing high or increasing drug prices. This puts a face to a contentious policy issue and makes the case that action should be taken NOW.
- Pharmaceutical corporations spend millions to convince policymakers that the status quo is fine. Stories of how high drug prices are hurting retirees is our best way to fight back.

### How Can You Use Your Story?

- Share during congressional district and state capitol lobby visits
- Speaking at press conferences and fulfilling TV, print and digital media requests
- Speaking at membership meetings, rallies, protests and direct actions

### Story Starters

- Are you or a family struggling to pay for prescription medications? Do you fear being able to pay for them in the future?
- Do you have diabetes, arthritis, or other conditions that require expensive medicines?
- Have you ever fallen into the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole?”
- What do you fear would happen to you or your family if Medicare were cut or you had to pay more for your coverage?
- Do you rely on Social Security to make ends meet? Could you have waited to collect Social Security until you were 70?
- Are there basic necessities you need but cannot 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?
- How will you pay for long-term care if you or a relative needs it in the future?



## Personal Storytelling Minikit 2021 Winter Legislative Session

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

**Write Your Story - it can be brief but you should try to answer the below questions.**

Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_ (place) \_\_\_\_.

I was \_\_\_\_ (occupation) and retired in (year - if relevant).

It is hard for me to pay for the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of medicine\_ my doctor has prescribed

It makes me feel \_\_\_\_ (insert emotion) \_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_ (what am I doing to get buy).

If Congress fails to lower drug prices, \_\_\_\_\_ will happen to me.

### Share your story with your state Alliance and the Alliance team in Washington.

- 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.
- Change the world.



## Sample Letters to the Editor 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

### Drug Prices

Dear Editor:

Prescription drug prices just keep going up and retirees like me need relief.

The average person on Medicare pays \$5,000 per year in out of pocket medical expenses, including prescriptions. One in five older Americans say they have not taken one of the prescriptions their doctor advised due to cost.

It should not be this way. Americans pay the highest prices for prescription drugs in the world. Pharmaceutical corporations are spending millions to lobby on Capitol Hill and defeat any legislation to lower prices. Even during the pandemic, drug corporations are making enormous profits by charging the federal government for vaccines and treatments that our tax dollars paid to develop.

President Biden wants to require Medicare to negotiate lower prices with the drug corporations the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration do. Congress should pass legislation and make this happen without delay.

Seniors can't wait.

Sincerely,



## Sample Letters to the Editor 2021 Winter Legislative Toolkit

### COVID-19

February 2021

The pandemic has hit older Americans hard. More than 80% of people who have died from this horrible disease were over the age of 65, and until every American has been vaccinated the risk will remain high.

This is a crisis but Republicans in Congress seem content to sit back and wait for it to become worse. We need to do everything possible to accelerate the production of vaccines, and then get those vaccines to the people who need them. This is a massive undertaking, and Congress needs to help President Biden get more Americans vaccinated faster.

I urge Rep/Senator INSERT NAME to set partisanship aside and put the needs of their constituents first.

Sincerely,



## USPS Board of Governors: DeJoy's Got To Go Petition

**Target:** U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has gone too far with his 'cost-cutting' measures and attempts to undermine the Post Office.

People are experiencing significant delays in medicine deliveries from USPS, with some having to wait seven or more days to get their items.

[This is outrageous. Sign our petition to demand that the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors remove DeJoy and restore the services he damaged immediately.](#)

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 email to: [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org).