



## 2021 Anniversary Toolkit How to Use This Toolkit

Welcome to Anniversary Summer. This year is the 56th and 86th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, and Social Security, respectively. The Alliance will work all summer to support your efforts to celebrate these milestones as a means to protect and strengthen the programs and earned benefits of all Americans.

As a means of continuing our mobilization, we will petition and lobby members of congress, collect stories of individual and collective experiences and hold anniversary observances to frame and bring attention to the threads of our most critical earned benefits and demand action to address the escalating cost of prescription drugs.

This toolkit contains three sections. The first section contains all the fact sheet and position papers you will need this summer. The second contains mobilization materials for holding zoom or in person anniversary events and present Zero/Hero awards and in the third section you will find everything needed to request, hold and report on virtual district lobby meetings with representatives.

### Position Papers

Familiarize yourself with the Alliance Position Papers on the legislation that is in play during the 2021 Anniversary Summer. These position papers correspond with the Lobby Day Talking Points and Lobby Visit Report Back Form we have included in this toolkit for your legislative visits.

- **Social Security and Medicare Facts and Figures** – All you need to know about Social Security and Medicare in 2021. This is the most updated information about average benefits, eligibility, cost of living adjustments and more.
- **Position Paper: Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act** – H.R. 3 repeals the law prohibiting the government to negotiate for lower drugs prices. We urge the US House to pass this legislation and for the Senate to take up one that is similar.
- **Position Paper: Pandemic Treatment Access and Affordability Act** – A pandemic should not be an opportunity to profit. This critical piece of legislation would make it illegal.
- **Position Paper: Trust Act** – Dangerous legislation authored by Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) that could fast track cuts to earned Social Security benefits.
- **Social Security Fairness Act** – H.R. 82 would repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.



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### Mobilization

This toolkit is designed to support your work advancing the retiree agenda for your activism as well as a means to engage partners and affiliates. Members and activists can take coordinated and individual actions and can share with and enlist others to organize with the Alliance for Retired Americans to build a larger community of strength.

### Planning your Anniversary Event

This summer, anniversary events may happen in person – by following CDC guidelines – or may happen over Zoom to ensure everyone who wants may attend and is comfortable. This toolkit contains a planning guide and sample agenda.

### Sharing Your Story

Personal stories about how Social Security, Medicare and the cost of prescription drugs impact us help highlight why we are advocates. For this reason, we have included our Personal Storytelling minikit. Before your anniversary events or 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

Anniversary Summer is a great season for writing letters to your area editors. Included in this toolkit are sample letters that correspond to the legislation on retiree issues in play this summer outlined throughout this toolkit.

### Lobby Visits

#### Scheduling Your Visit

Included is a full lobby kit to use during your legislative visits. Read through each step. When you are ready, contact your local congressional offices to request meetings for your group with members of the House, Senate and or staff. The Alliance zoom account is



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available to host your meetings if it is helpful. [Use this tracker for this and any other requests.](#)

Schedule a pre-visit meeting with your group to organize speaking order as well as legislative asks. Bring the Lobby Day Talking Points, position papers and the Report Back Form to the meeting.

### Reporting Back

During your meeting, use the Lobby Visit Report Back Form to structure your legislative asks and record the answers you hear. Be sure to take pictures or screenshots of your visit. Immediately following your visit, debrief with your group and make sure you have all the responses for the form. [Complete the online report back form](#) and send pictures to [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org).

**Questions?** Email [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org) with any question or request.