

July 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5 Independence Day (Observed)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 National Anniversary Summer Kickoff Zoom Event	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 56th Anniversary of Medicare & Medicaid	31

- =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

August 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 86th Anniversary of Social Security
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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Request Lobby Visit

Contact the local district office, introduce yourself, who you are with and that you would like to request an in person or virtual lobby meeting with the member of Congress.

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 picture of your in person meeting or a screenshot of your virtual meeting to post on social media 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. 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.

Mark Anniversaries of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security by Advocating to Strengthen Them for the Future

Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs and the costs 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 prescribed by their doctor due to cost.

Require Medicare to Negotiate Prices of Most Expensive Drugs

Medicare's spending on prescription drugs increased by 26% between 2013 and 2018 due to higher drug prices, according to [a new report](#) from the [Medicare Advisory Payment Commission](#) (MedPAC).

Requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prices will save seniors and taxpayers \$500 billion. It is time for Congress to put patients and the American public ahead of pharmaceutical corporation profits.

Expand Medicare to Include Vision, Dental and Hearing

Savings from the lower drug prices Medicare negotiates should be used to strengthen and expand the Medicare program, including expanding benefits to ensure all beneficiaries receive the vision, dental and hearing services they need.

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 (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 who need them.



Lobby Day Talking Points **2021 Anniversary Summer 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 public health emergencies and ensure their affordability.

Expand Social Security by Eliminating the Cap on Income Subject to Social Security Taxes

Urgent action is needed to strengthen retirement security by increasing Social Security benefits. The number of retirees who are dependent on Social Security for most or all of their income is increasing, in part, due to the decline of traditional pensions and will only grow in the wake of the pandemic recession.

It is time to expand Social Security by increasing benefits for all Americans and requiring all Americans to pay their fair share into the Social Security system.

The Alliance for Retired Americans Strongly Opposes the TRUST Act.

Senator Mitt Romney's bill creates "rescue committees" charged with making recommendations to change Social Security and Medicare. The rescue committee recommendations would be rushed to the House and Senate floor for a yes or no vote, which could not be amended by relevant committees or on the Senate or House floor.

The TRUST Act is based on a false premise that the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds are in crisis. In fact, Social Security can pay full benefits until 2035, and 79% of benefits after that. By raising or eliminating the cap, we can expand benefits and further extend the solvency of the program.

The Medicare Trust Fund is also solvent. It can be further strengthened by reining in the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, which is the fastest growing portion of the program's budget. Allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices would dramatically strengthen the program.

The Alliance for Retired Americans Support Repeal of WEP and GPO

Today, more than 2.5 million retired public sector workers and certain spouses and survivors have been penalized receiving a reduction in their Social Security benefits. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) impacts retired public employees with pensions and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) affects spouses and survivors with pensions who are entitled to their spouses' Social Security benefits. These individuals lose a portion or sometimes all the benefits they are entitled to. The Alliance for Retired Americans supports the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 1302 and H.R. 82, which will repeal the WEP and GPO, allowing those impacted to receive all the benefits they have earned



LOBBY REPORT BACK FORM 2021 Anniversary Summer

Representative's Name, State and District: _____

Date of Visit: _____

Representative or staff in visit: _____

Alliance Participants in Meeting: _____

CIRCLE RESPONSE FROM MEMBER OR STAFF

ISSUE	PRO-RETIREE POSITION	ANTI-RETIREE POSITION	UNDECIDED
Prescription Drug Prices	Supports lowering costs through negotiations, like the Veterans Administration	Opposes lowering the cost of life saving prescription drugs	Undecided
PTAA	Will become a co-sponsor of PTAA to ensure pandemic treatments are accessible and affordable	Opposes access to pandemic treatment	Undecided
Trust Act	Opposes Trust Act, which could allow a fast track of cuts to Social Security's earned benefit	Supports Trust Act and fast tracking reduced payments to Social Security beneficiaries	Undecided
Social Security	Supports expanding Social Security and full repeal of the WEP/GPO	Opposes expanding Social Security and repeal of WEP/GPO	Undecided
PRO Act	Supports strengthening retirement security by strengthening workers rights to organize	Opposes strengthening retirement security and workers rights to organize	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.