



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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House Members Dig Deeper into DOGE's Mishandling of SSA Data

A group of lawmakers led by Rep. **John Larson** (CT) has filed a “resolution of inquiry” to investigate the Department of Government Efficiency’s (DOGE) abuse of Americans’ personal Social Security Administration (SSA) data and hold DOGE operatives accountable.



[Alliance Executive Director Richard Fiesta](#) joined legislators and other allies – including Campaign Legal Center Senior Legal Counsel **Sejal Jhaveri**, AFT Secretary **Fedrick Ingram**, AFSCME member **Diana Lyles**, and Democracy Forward CEO **Skye Perryman** – at a press conference on Wednesday highlighting the resolution. Reps. **Larson**, **Tom Suozzi** (NY), **Linda Sanchez** (CA), **Richard Neal** (MA), **Judy Chu** (CA), and **Steven Horsford** (NV) spoke at the event.

“Last month, nearly a year after we at the Alliance went to the court with AFT and AFSCME ably represented by Democracy Forward, what we thought from press reports and leaks could happen actually came true. DOGE leaked information to a third-party, uploaded it to a server that was unsecure, all in violation at that time of a temporary restraining order by a federal judge in Baltimore,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We thank all of these members who are here today on behalf of our members because seniors are the most susceptible to scams. And where that information went could be a bonanza for people who are out to hurt not only seniors but everyone who’s ever contributed to Social Security.”

Bipartisan Legislation to Combat Social Media Scam Ads Introduced

A new bill to combat fraudulent ads on social media platforms was introduced in the United States Senate soon after the Alliance’s “Stop the Scam” [webinar](#) last month.

Sen. **Ruben Gallego** (AZ) and Sen. **Bernie Moreno** (OH) [introduced S. 3774](#), the Safeguarding Consumers from Advertising Misconduct Act (SCAM Act), which would strengthen regulations to combat social media scams and make it easier to hold online platforms accountable when they fail to take action against scam advertisers.

According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center Report, older Americans lost \$4.8 billion to internet scams in 2024 – a 43 percent increase from the previous year. Social media was the leading contact method for fraud.

“Scammers are using social media to swindle Americans out of their hard-earned savings, and right now, those platforms face almost no consequences for letting it happen,” said Senator **Gallego**. “If a company is making money from running ads on their site, it has a responsibility to make sure those ads aren't fraudulent.”

“Older Americans are disproportionately affected by scams – especially ones that originate online and on social media,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Lawmakers need to hold corporations that profit off of fraudulent ads accountable.”

As Midterm Elections Approach, the Alliance Defends Voting Rights in Court

On Tuesday, federal Judge **Hala Y. Jarbou** [dismissed](#) a Department of Justice (DOJ) lawsuit seeking the state's unredacted voter files. The Michigan Alliance intervened in the case, agreeing with the state of Michigan that the federal government had no right to this data which includes driver's license and Social Security numbers, phone numbers, party registrations, email addresses and voter participation histories.

Eleven states have voluntarily complied with the DOJ request for their state's voter data, and the DOJ has sued 20 others that refused to release it. Fifteen state Alliance chapters have filed motions to intervene in these cases opposing the data release.

The nonpartisan Brennan Center, which tracks voting rights issues, says the demands by the Trump Administration are “unprecedented and a clear encroachment on states' power to run elections [as outlined in the Constitution](#).”

“These cases highlight two fundamental issues: the right to vote and the right to keep one's sensitive data private,” said Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta**. “We will always fight to ensure that older Americans can cast a ballot that will actually be counted.”

It's Time to Register for the Alliance's National Membership Meeting this April

The Alliance invites you to attend our National Membership Meeting from April 27 to April 30 at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.



[Click here to read the convention call and to register for the meeting.](#)

Attendees will elect the Alliance's officers, participate in special workshops, learn about emerging issues and what's at stake in the 2026 elections, and develop ways to grow our retiree activism. They will also attend a special "Senior Prom Ball and Dinner" celebrating the Alliance's 25th anniversary.

Please contact Joni Jones at jjones@retiredamericans.org or 888-373-6497 with any questions.

KFF Health News: New Medicaid Work Rules Likely To Hit Middle-Aged Adults Hard
By Samantha Liss and Sam Whitehead

Lori Kelley's deteriorating vision has made it hard for her to find steady work.

The 59-year-old, who lives in Harrisburg, North Carolina, closed her nonprofit circus arts school last year because she could no longer see well enough to complete paperwork. She then worked making dough at a pizza shop for a bit. Currently, she sorts recyclable materials, including cans and bottles, at a local concert venue. It is her main source of income — but the work isn't year-round.

"This place knows me, and this place loves me," Kelley said of her employer. "I don't have to explain to this place why I can't read."

Kelley, who lives in a camper, survives on less than \$10,000 a year. She says that's possible, in part, because of her Medicaid health coverage, which pays for arthritis and anxiety medications and has enabled doctor visits to manage high blood pressure.

But she worries about losing that coverage next year, when rules take effect requiring millions of people like Kelley to work, volunteer, attend school, or perform other qualifying activities for at least 80 hours a month.

"I'm scared right now," she said.

Before the coverage changes were signed into law, Republican lawmakers suggested that young, unemployed men were taking advantage of the government health insurance program that provides coverage to millions of low-income or disabled people. Medicaid is not intended for "29-year-old males sitting on their couches playing video games," House Speaker Mike Johnson told CNN.

But, in reality, adults ages 50 to 64, particularly women, are likely to be hit hard by the new rules, said Jennifer Tolbert, deputy director of the Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured at KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News. For Kelley and others, the work

requirements will create barriers to keeping their coverage, Tolbert said. Many could lose Medicaid as a result, putting their physical and financial health at risk.

[Read more here.](#)

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national grassroots advocacy organization with 4.4 million members fighting for retirement security for all Americans. www.retiredamericans.org @activeretirees