



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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March 20, 2026

Senators Demand Answers from SSA About DOGE Layoffs and Staff Reassignments

[Last year, DOGE-led layoffs resulted in more than 7,400 employees at the Social Security Administration \(SSA\) losing their jobs.](#) As a result, the agency is understaffed, and remaining employees are being redirected to perform tasks they aren't properly trained for, like answering phone calls. The mass layoffs and subsequent reassignments have led to a backlog in claims processing and delays for beneficiaries.

[The 19th reported this week](#) that people who have lost a spouse or a parent are facing some of the longest delays. Grieving Americans are waiting months for their claims to be processed or hours for a callback before they can discuss their claims.

Twelve members of the U.S. Senate are [demanding answers](#) about the staff layoffs and reassignments. [A letter sent this week to the SSA](#) calls for the agency to describe in detail the hiring process, the reassignment process, and the training process.

"The SSA staff cuts are hurting older Americans and straightforward claims are taking longer to process. We are not surprised, but we are angry," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "These cuts have been disastrous for employees and beneficiaries alike. Congress needs to keep the pressure on until the SSA is once again able to serve the public efficiently."

President Trump and Republicans are Going All in on the SAVE America Act, Which Will Make it Harder for Millions of Americans to Vote

On Tuesday, the U.S. Senate [voted 51-48](#) to start debate on the SAVE America Act, a voter suppression bill passed by the House [last month with a vote of 218-213](#).

If passed, [the bill](#) will require voters to present a valid passport or certified copy of their birth certificate in person at an election office to register to vote or update voter registration. This would eliminate or greatly reduce voting by mail and force millions of voters to face unnecessary obstacles in order to cast their ballots. This will affect:

- More than 21 million Americans who don't have access to a passport or birth certificate, including natural disaster survivors
- [66 million rural voters](#) without easy access to election offices
- 69 million married women who don't have birth certificates that match their current legal name

“Gas and grocery prices are sky high and millions of seniors are struggling just to make ends meet. But instead of working to make life more affordable, President Trump and Republicans will spend at least a week on legislation that will make it harder for Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Senators must reject this assault on voting rights,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

ACTION NEEDED: [Click here to tell your Senators to vote NO on the SAVE America Act.](#)

Postmaster General Warns of Looming USPS Financial Crisis



On Tuesday, Postmaster General **David Steiner** [testified](#) at a hearing in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Steiner said the Postal Service will run out of money by next year if Congress does not take action. He identified several reasons for the agency's financial struggles in [his testimony](#), including overly burdensome regulations and a

dramatic reduction in the number of Americans sending first class mail since 2006, coupled with the need to meet expenses for future retiree benefits.

Unlike other government entities, the Postal Service is funded primarily through revenue from selling products and services. **Steiner** suggested increasing prices for first class stamps and increasing the agency's borrowing limit as solutions. He also acknowledged that other potential options, like reducing the number of delivery days and closing smaller post offices should be a last resort even though they could save money.

Democratic members of the committee – including Ranking Member **Kweisi Mfume** (MD) – focused their questions on options to increase revenue for USPS. Questions from the Republican members of the committee focused on privatizing the Postal Service completely.

“Millions of Americans – including seniors and those living in rural communities – rely on the Post Office for timely delivery of essential goods and services like medicine. Privatization should be a non-starter,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Congress should take

immediate action to increase revenue for the Postal Service and shore up its finances for the future.”

Alliance’s National Membership Meeting is Next Month – Book Your Hotel Room Now

The Alliance invites you to attend our National Membership Meeting from April 27 to April 30 at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. **Rooms at the hotel are filling up quickly, so please make reservations as soon as possible.**

[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. AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer **Fred Redmond**, former SSA Commissioner **Martin O’Malley**, pollster **Jason McGrath**, and President and CEO of the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) [Hardy Merriman](#) are all slated to speak.

There will also be a special “Senior Prom Ball and Dinner” celebrating the Alliance’s 25th anniversary. Registered attendees can bring outside guests to this event for a fee of \$50 per person.

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

KFF Health News: Many ACA Customers Are Paying Higher Premiums. Most Blame Trump and Republicans, Poll Finds. **By Julie Appleby**

Most people who get their health coverage through the Affordable Care Act say they face sharply higher costs, with many worried they will have to pare back other expenses to cover them, according to a poll released Thursday. Some are uncertain whether they will be able to continue paying their premiums all year.

Still, 69% of those enrolled last year signed up again this year, often for less generous coverage. About 9% said they had to forgo insurance, according to the survey by KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News.

The KFF poll revisited the people who responded to a November KFF survey of Affordable Care Act enrollees during open enrollment for ACA plans.

[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