



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

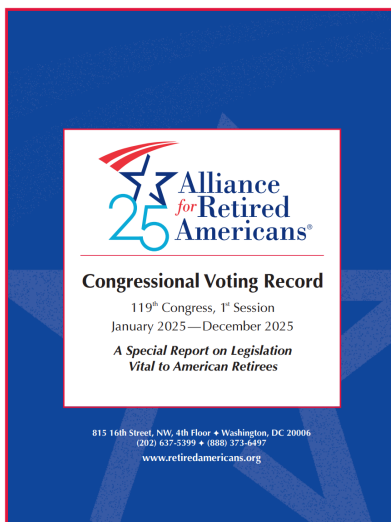
815 16th Street, NW, Fourth Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.637.5399

www.retiredamericans.org

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Alliance Releases New Congressional Voting Record



The Alliance for Retired Americans today released its 2025 Congressional Voting Record, which scores each U.S. Senator and Representative on important retirement security issues. Download the full voting record and versions for each state [here](#).

“Most members of Congress pay lip service to protecting seniors,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Our annual voting record shows which House and Senate members back up their words with actions and vote in older Americans’ best interests.”

Forty-seven members of the U.S. Senate and 211 members of the U.S. House of Representatives earned perfect pro-retiree scores of 100 percent. In contrast, 47 senators and 197 House members earned scores of 0 percent pro-retiree, one of the largest numbers of “0%” scores since the Alliance began publishing its Congressional Voting Record in 2001.

The report evaluates ten Senate and House floor votes in 2025. These include votes to prevent over 5 million older Americans from losing access to Home-and-Community-Based Services that allow them to age in place, as well as votes to prevent millions of Americans from losing their health insurance and access to nutrition programs, and votes against tax cuts for the rich.

“The votes members of the House and Senate take in Washington have real consequences for retirees and their families,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “Making sure all older Americans have the information they need to hold their elected officials accountable is core to the Alliance’s mission.”

Report: SSDI Beneficiaries Waiting for Medicare Coverage Often Die Before Receiving Approval

[A new study published in Health Affairs](#) finds that people who have been approved for Social Security Disability Insurance, but are not yet covered by Medicare due to a mandatory 24-month waiting period, have far higher mortality rates than their peers.

David Powell, a coauthor of the study and a Senior Fellow at UPenn's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, [emphasized](#) how the study is meant to highlight the importance of more immediate coverage.

People who are determined to have qualifying disabilities and health conditions must wait 24 months for coverage to begin *after* being deemed eligible for Medicare. During this time, many are left uninsured, meaning they cannot receive necessary treatment for life-threatening or chronic conditions. Beneficiaries with cancer, for example, have a mortality rate of 39.3 percent.

"The results of this study are sobering, but we can learn from them," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "Congress should shorten the wait time for Medicare coverage to begin so that the most vulnerable Americans can receive the care they need."

Alliance Celebrates International Women's Day, Women's History Month

International Women's Day is this weekend — Sunday, March 8 — and March is Women's History Month.

Women make essential contributions to the labor movement and workforce, but their wages continue to stagnate compared to male workers. Women earn [on average](#) 85 percent of what men earn, and that pay gap increases with age. [Researchers have found](#) that women usually have about 30 percent less in savings compared to men by the time they retire. They also face more career interruptions – like taking time off to provide family caregiving – that affect the total amount they earn over the course of their careers and can derail their ability to save for retirement. This means that women end up having less money in retirement even though they tend to live longer.

"We must respect women by ensuring they earn a living wage and can enjoy a healthy and secure retirement after a lifetime of work," said President **Roach**. "We still have a long way to go to make that a reality."

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. Attendees can bring guests to the dinner for a fee of \$50 for each additional person.

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



KFF Health News: Even Patients Are Shocked by the Prices Their Insurers Will Pay — And It Costs All of Us

By Elisabeth Rosenthal

Samantha Smith of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, went into the operating room for emergency removal of an ectopic pregnancy. “I’m grateful I didn’t die,” she said, but she was shocked to see that the outpatient surgery was billed to her insurer for about \$100,000.

Jamie Estrada of Albuquerque, New Mexico, twice received injections of lidocaine in his upper spine to test if a permanent nerve ablation would treat his chronic neck pain. His pain vanished — until the numbing agent wore off about six hours later. The real zinger: His insurer was billed \$28,000 for each 10-minute procedure.

Mark McCullick of Longmont, Colorado, was sent for a whole-body PET scan to find out whether his prostate cancer was back. The two-hour scan showed no evidence of cancer, but the \$77,000 bill sent to the company that administered his insurance alarmed him.

Medical inflation has steadily outpaced general inflation for years, with bills for many brief, routine procedures reaching tens of thousands of dollars.

[Read more here.](#)