



# FRIDAY ALERT

## Alliance for Retired Americans

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[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

Spanish version: [www.alianzadejubilados.org](http://www.alianzadejubilados.org)

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## Medicare Prior Authorization Pilot Program Challenged in Lawsuit

Last week, the Electronic Frontier Foundation [filed a lawsuit](#) against the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) challenging the Administration’s “Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction” (WISeR) prior authorization pilot program.

Unlike Medicare Advantage, traditional Medicare has not required prior authorization for patients or physicians. But [the WISeR pilot program](#) changes that by replacing physicians’ medical determinations in six states – Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington – with an artificial intelligence (AI) prior authorization process managed by for-profit corporations. CMS pays these corporations a fee based on the number of medical procedures denied, resulting in higher payments for an increased amount of denials.

Since the WISeR program took effect in January, doctors and patients in the affected states have reported delays, denials, and longer wait times. Lawmakers in the U.S. House and Senate have [introduced legislation](#) that aims to ban AI-assisted prior authorization processes completely from traditional Medicare in the future.

“The WISeR prior authorization pilot gets between doctors and patients and breaks a fundamental promise of traditional Medicare,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Congress must intervene and stop for-profit AI corporations from making money by blocking care that doctors order for their patients.”

[Click here to download our WISeR fact sheet.](#)

## Voting Rights Update: Massachusetts Alliance Wins Dismissal in Voter Data Case, Florida Alliance Challenges Voter ID Requirement

The Massachusetts Alliance [scored a win](#) on Thursday when a federal district court dismissed a lawsuit from the Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ officials filed the lawsuit to try and force state officials to turn over sensitive, unredacted voter registration data to the federal government. The

Massachusetts Alliance joined the New England State Area Conference of the NAACP to intervene in the case last year, and filed a motion to dismiss in February.

Last week, the Florida Alliance [joined the](#) Florida State Conference Of Branches and Youth Units of the NAACP to file a lawsuit challenging a new state voter identification bill signed into law by Governor **Ron DeSantis** (FL).

The [law requires](#) Floridians to present proof of U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote and remain on the voter rolls, mimicking provisions in federal legislation – the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act – currently being pushed by President **Donald Trump** and Republicans in Congress.

The lawsuit argues that this new requirement will create an unnecessary obstacle that unfairly excludes and violates the rights of millions of Florida voters.

“This latest effort from the Florida Alliance is another great example illustrating how Alliance members have stepped up to stop voter suppression measures,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We are – and always will be – ready to protect Americans’ constitutional right to vote.”

### **Town Halls in Pennsylvania Highlight How to Combat Online Scams Targeting Seniors**

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans (PARA) hosted two “Stop the Scam” community town halls this week in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

During both events, older adults, elected officials, and community leaders gathered for an open, solutions-oriented conversation about the rise in scams fueled by social media and artificial intelligence. Alliance Consultant **Marissa Whitehouse** provided an overview of online scams, how they are supercharged by new artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and what can be done to stop scammers. Other speakers also highlighted how scammers are targeting seniors with increasingly sophisticated tactics and urged attendees to report scams they encounter to state legislators and relevant government offices like the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Elder Justice Unit.

The Philadelphia event took place on Tuesday. Philadelphia District Attorney **Larry Krasner** and Pennsylvania State Representative **Brian Munroe** addressed attendees, emphasizing the importance of awareness, prevention, and stronger enforcement. Participants were encouraged to share their own experiences with fraud and ask questions, helping to shed light on the real-life impact of scams.

[The Pittsburgh event](#) took place yesterday and featured Pennsylvania State Senator **Nick Pisciotano** and State Representatives **Jessica Benham** and **Dan Frankel** as speakers. They offered perspectives on legislative efforts – including upcoming legislation in the state senate – and the role of state government in combating fraud, and urged attendees to shut down scams by taking some time to evaluate situations before taking action.

“Technology’s getting harder and harder to regulate, and we’re doing the best we can on that front,” [said](#) State Senator **Pisciottano**. “The best thing that people can do to protect themselves is be smart about the decisions they make. Don’t make emotional decisions, take time to think through these situations and see if they’re legitimate.”

“Senior fraud is a pervasive problem that has only gotten more challenging to address as technology rapidly evolves,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “The Alliance will continue to educate and mobilize seniors and their loved ones so they can better combat online fraud.”



Left: Allegheny/Fayette Central Labor Council President John Galuska, Pennsylvania Alliance President Mike Crossey, Alliance Consultant Marissa Whitehouse, State Representative Dan Frankel, State Representative Jessica Benham, and State Senator Nick Pisciottano at Pittsburgh town hall, Right: Pennsylvania Alliance Vice President Kathy Black hears a question from Pennsylvania Alliance member Jean Kamara at Philadelphia town hall

## Alliance Field Staff Addresses IUPAT Retirees

Field Manager **Tommy McLaughlin** met with International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District 9 retirees in New York last week and traveled to Connecticut to speak with IUPAT District 11 retirees in Connecticut on Monday. **McLaughlin** spoke about the Alliance’s “Stop the Scam” campaign, the current state of Social Security, and how to organize with state Alliance chapters, including opportunities for members to get more involved locally. Speakers at the District 11 meeting included **Bill Candelori**, who is overseeing the IUPAT Retiree Committee, former IUPAT General President **Jim Williams, Sr.**, and Connecticut Alliance President **Bette Marafino**. The IUPAT joined the Alliance [as a new affiliated union](#) last month.



Left: IUPAT District 9 retirees in New York, Right: IUPAT District 11 retirees in Connecticut listen to Connecticut Alliance President Bette Marafino speak

***KFF Health News: Can I Opt Out of Having My Doctor Take Notes With AI?***  
**By Katherine Ruppelt, Nashville Public Radio and Cara Anthony and Blake Farmer, Nashville Public Radio**

Family physician Eric Boose has been using an artificial intelligence tool to get back to what he calls “old-fashioned medicine” — talking with patients face-to-face, without having to type into a computer at the same time.

“I can really just sit there and engage and just focus on them and listen,” said Boose, who practices at Cleveland Clinic.

Roughly two years ago, he started using an AI notetaker app during patient visits. The tool listens while he talks with patients and then automatically generates a visit summary based on the conversation. The summary is usually ready within seconds after the appointment ends.

“It’s taking care of all that tedious work of charting and taking notes during the visit,” he said. “It’s just freeing up a lot more time to get that done, and I can get home to my family earlier.”

Nearly a third of physician practices are using AI scribes and others are working to add the tool, in an effort to cut down on administrative work.

[Read more here.](#)