



# FRIDAY ALERT

## Alliance for Retired Americans

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

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

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

May 15, 2026

---

### Sen. Cruz: “Trump Accounts are Social Security personal accounts”

Americans will have the opportunity to start investing in “Trump accounts” for children on July 4. Last week, Senator **Ted Cruz** (TX) [set off alarm bells](#) when he suggested that these accounts will be so popular that they will build support for replacing Social Security with privatized, personal accounts.

The tax-deferred accounts – included in last year’s Republican tax law – will be funded with an initial one-time \$1,000 contribution from the federal government for children born between 2025 and 2028. Parents or guardians can open accounts for children born before or after these dates, but the government won’t provide any funds for them.

"Here's the dirty little secret: Trump Accounts are Social Security personal accounts," Cruz said during the Milken Institute Global Conference. "We're going to be able to go to parents and say, 'Hey, you know that Trump account your kid has? Wouldn't you like to be able to keep a portion of your tax payments that you're paying already, and instead of sending it to Uncle Sam, wouldn't you like to have a Trump account just like your kid does?'"

Social Security experts have pointed out that private, personal investment accounts are not a substitute for earned benefits. Even with the \$1,000 contribution, Trump accounts will favor wealthier Americans who have the ability to save and invest the maximum amount allowed each year. Plus, since families are required to invest in stock funds for the first 18 years of investment, funds will have a much higher risk of low returns or losses due to market fluctuations.

“At a time when most Americans are struggling to pay for food and gas, it’s dangerous that a senior United States senator is talking about a plan to privatize Social Security and replace guaranteed, earned benefits with risky Wall Street accounts,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “We continue to urge Congress to strengthen and increase Social Security benefits by eliminating the loophole that allows the wealthiest taxpayers to avoid paying Social Security tax on all of their wages.”

## Medical Journal Confirms that Medicare’s Annual Cap on Out of Pocket Drug Costs is Keeping Seniors on their Medications

New [research](#) shows that the Inflation Reduction Act’s provision capping yearly prescription drug costs has helped Medicare patients afford and stay on their prescription medications. The annual out-of-pocket drug costs cap is \$2,100 for 2026.

Last month the [JAMA Internal Medicine published a study](#) examining the link between the out-of-pocket cap and patients taking prescription drugs as directed, a process known as “patient adherence.” The study found that after the cap took effect, Medicare beneficiaries were less likely to skip or discontinue their prescription drugs.

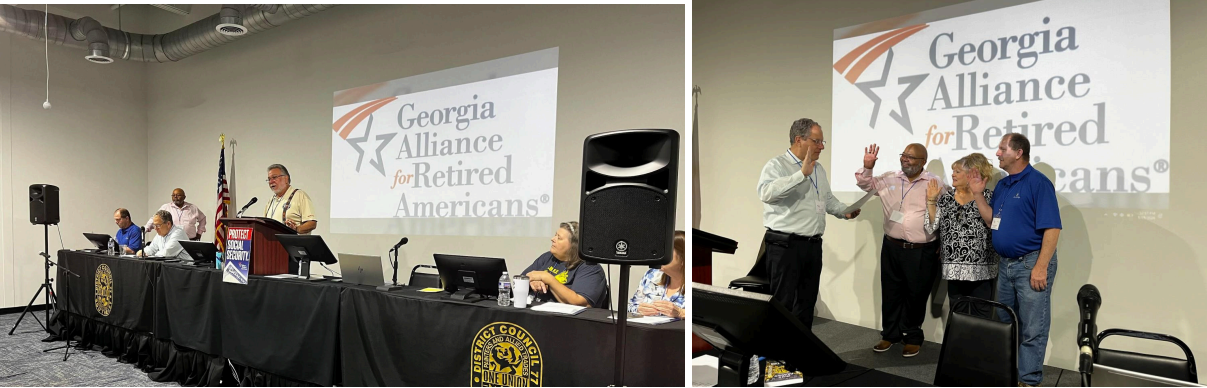
“This finding is welcome news and yet another example of how this provision is helping older Americans save money and stay healthy,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We fought for more than 20 years for policies to lower the cost of prescription drugs, including annual out-of-pocket costs and requiring Medicare to negotiate better prices directly with drug corporations. Now, we urge Congress to continue putting patients over profits by increasing the number of drugs Medicare can negotiate lower prices for each year and making those savings available to all Americans.”

## Georgia Alliance Holds Convention

Georgia Alliance members elected **Roy Copening** as their president (International Union of Painters and Allied Trades), **Louis Partain** as recording secretary (International Union of Painters and Allied Trades), and Deborah Thomas (Insulators Union) as treasurer during their convention in Decatur today.

Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta** gave a keynote address which covered threats to Social Security and the importance of the senior vote in the upcoming midterm elections. Alliance Field Manager **Tommy McLaughlin** shared ideas on how attendees can strengthen their work to educate and mobilize retirees around local, state and national issues.





Clockwise: Alliance Executive Board Member Patrice Earnest; Alliance Executive Director Richard Fiesta; Brett Hulme, endorsed candidate for Georgia labor commissioner; Newly elected GA Alliance officers are sworn in

## Social Media Platform Meta Made Millions from Fraudulent Medicare Ads on Facebook and Instagram; Scam Survivors Recognized on Capitol Hill

A [new report](#) found that Meta, the corporation that owns Facebook and [Instagram](#), has failed to stop scammers from repeatedly buying ads that target seniors.

The report by the Center for Countering Digital Hate found that scam ads aimed at older adults are particularly common on Facebook. According to the report, ads from 30 of the most active scam accounts generated an estimated 215 million views over the past year, with nearly three-quarters of those views coming from users aged 65 and older.

The ads are designed to get users to click a link or call a phone number. One ad cited in the report promised \$3,600 for groceries, rent, and gas through Medicare and urged viewers to “Claim it now.” But instead of receiving benefits, users often have their personal information collected or are directed into inferior Medicare plans, according to the report.

The report found that Meta made at least \$14.3 million last year from ads mentioning Medicare targeting seniors.

Also this week, Rep. **George Whitesides** (CA) [held a briefing and press conference](#) to mark National Scam Survivor Day. Ashton Bingham & Art Kulik, hosts of the Fox Nation show “Scammed: Getting Even” and anti-scam YouTuber Kitboga, spoke in support of legislation protecting consumers and holding scammers accountable. Several members of Congress including Reps. **Gabe Amo** (RI), **Erin Houchin** (IN), **Jefferson Shreve** (IN), and **Derek Tran** (CA), spoke about their efforts to pass these laws, and survivors shared their stories.

“Online scams targeting seniors are growing at an alarming rate and behind every statistic is a real person who has suffered financial and emotional harm,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “We thank Congressman **Whitesides**, the Stop Scams Caucus, and survivors for speaking up and fighting for legislation that will hold scammers and the platforms that enable them accountable.”

## **KFF Health News: Trump Promised Cheaper Drugs. Some Prices Dropped. Many Others Shot Up.**

**By Elisabeth Rosenthal and Arthur Allen**

Since his second term started, President Donald Trump has announced, negotiated, or floated a flurry of initiatives aimed at taming the excesses of the pharmaceutical industry.

No surprise. About 60% of American adults are “worried about being able to afford prescription drug costs for themselves or their families,” a recent KFF nationwide poll showed. More than 80% consider the price of prescription drugs “unreasonable,” and most support increased regulation to lower costs. Americans pay about three times as much as people in other countries for the same prescription drugs.

Last July, Trump sent letters to 17 drugmakers, demanding they voluntarily lower drug prices. Then the president said he’d negotiated with more than a dozen pharmaceutical executives one by one at the White House. In December, he announced that he had compelled them to agree to “most favored nation” pricing on Medicaid, the government coverage for low-income Americans.

Then came the unveiling of TrumpRx, a site where cash-paying patients could find discounted medicines, and a promise to speed biosimilar products — generic versions of certain high-priced specialty drugs — by cutting through FDA red tape.

The scope of these grand gestures remains uncertain. But it’s certainly less than what the announcement promised, partly because many details of the negotiations, even which drugs are covered, are hazy.

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