



# FRIDAY ALERT

## Alliance for Retired Americans

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

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## Senators Press Trump Administration for Answers on Social Security

Senator **Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), joined by Senators **Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL) and **Richard Blumenthal** (D-CT), sent a letter to President Trump this week seeking clarification on the Administration's position on raising the retirement age in light of the release of the 2026 Social Security Trustees' Report.

The Trustees said that Social Security's Trust Fund reserves are projected to be depleted in 2032. If Congress fails to act before then, beneficiaries would face an estimated automatic 22% reduction in their monthly benefits.

In their letter, the senators cited comments from administration officials about raising the retirement age, as well as proposals to privatize the program. They also asked what plans, if any, the Administration has to address Social Security's projected funding shortfall.

"American workers pay into Social Security with every paycheck and earn the benefits they receive in retirement. Proposals to raise the retirement age amount to a benefit cut that would hit working families and older Americans the hardest," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "We appreciate Senators Warren, Duckworth, and Blumenthal's effort to get the Administration to share its plans for Social Security with the American public."

## Bipartisan Support Grows for Capping Insulin at \$35 Per Month for More Americans

A bipartisan bill that would cap insulin costs at \$35 per month for millions of Americans with private health insurance is gaining momentum in Congress. The growing support comes as Congress searches for ways to tackle affordability concerns. A KFF poll in April found the cost of healthcare is at the top of the list.

The [INSULIN Act \(S. 4189\)](#) was introduced in March by Senators **Jeanne Shaheen** (D-NH), **Raphael Warnock** (D-GA), **Susan Collins** (R-ME), and **John Kennedy** (R-LA), now has 25 co-sponsors.

The bill would extend insulin price protections to people who receive health coverage through Affordable Care Act marketplace plans. Today the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act caps insulin costs at [\\$35 per month](#) for Medicare beneficiaries but does not provide the same protection for younger people with diabetes.

"We're encouraged to see growing bipartisan support for making insulin affordable for millions more Americans," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "The Inflation Reduction Act proved that lower drug prices can make a real difference in people's lives. It's past time to make insulin affordable for all who need it."

### **Labor Activist, Educator, and Alliance Leader Beatrice "Bea" Lumpkin dies at 107**

**Beatrice "Bea" Lumpkin**, a legendary figure in the American labor movement, [passed away in Chicago on June 14](#). She was 107.

Lumpkin was involved in the labor movement from her teen years as a laundry worker in New York City. At 19, she was hired by the newly-formed CIO to organize her fellow workers and would go on to spend the next 88 years in the labor movement.



Bea Lumpkin with Illinois Alliance members and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL) at a Social Security anniversary event in 2025



Bea Lumpkin and AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Fred Redmond in Chicago in 2024

Over her career Lumpkin held many roles: she was a factory worker, a union organizer, and a math teacher. She served in many leadership roles, including on the Executive Board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement.

Lumpkin was also an active member of the Alliance for Retired Americans. She served on the Executive Board of the Illinois Alliance and cofounded INTERGEN, which brought retirees and young people together to fight for a living wage and expanded health care for all, and the

protection of Social Security. She was also a member of Chicago Teachers' Union Retirees and served on the Executive Board of the South Chicago chapter of the Steelworkers Organization for Active Retirees.

“We’ve lost a labor movement giant and a bold retiree activist,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Bea was a trailblazer and a fierce advocate for retirees. Our movement is stronger because of her. We must honor her legacy by continuing to work to ensure all American workers are able to form or join a union, and retire with dignity.”



Alliance Executive Director Richard Fieta and former Illinois Alliance Executive Director Jeanne Cameron present Bea Lumpkin with the Alliance President's Award at her 100th birthday celebration

## Indiana Alliance Elects Officers and Georgia Alliance Holds Event in Savannah



The newly-elected Indiana Alliance Board poses for photo at convention

Indiana Alliance members elected **Brenda Smith** as president, **Dorine Godinez** as secretary, and **Robert Pedersen** as treasurer at their convention in Indianapolis last week. **Maureen Dunn**, the Alliance's Field Mobilization Director, spoke at the event and discussed the mid-term elections and the importance of mobilizing older voters to elect pro-retiree candidates.

Meanwhile, members of the Georgia Alliance and retirees and union members from several labor groups came together on June 12 in Savannah. **Tommy McLaughlin**, the Alliance's Field Manager, provided an update on the Alliance's advocacy work, the national political landscape, and the Alliance's Stop the Scam campaign. Attendees also heard from Georgia State Rep. **Carl Gilliard** and a representative from the Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging.



Rev. Bob Morgan from RUFF speaks at Georgia Alliance event

## **KFF Health News: Democrats Seek To Spotlight Rising Health Costs by Forcing Vote on Trump Regulation** **By Julie Appleby**

Democrats are seeking to force a vote to overturn a Trump administration rule that they say will make it harder to enroll in Affordable Care Act health plans and sharply raise out-of-pocket costs for those who do stay covered.

The measure is unlikely to pass in the Republican-controlled Congress, but Democrats could use the vote against their opponents on the campaign trail.

When the ACA rule was [released in May](#), the Trump administration [touted it](#) as a means to combat enrollment fraud, lower premiums for some people, and offer a wider range of insurance plans, including ones with no set network of doctors or hospitals.

[Read more here.](#)