



# FRIDAY ALERT

## Alliance for Retired Americans

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

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## Administration Launches Attacks on Vote-By-Mail Just In Time for Midterm Elections

Last week, the United States Postal Service (USPS) [proposed a new rule](#) that would force states to provide data for mail-in and absentee voters to the federal government, including names, addresses, and envelope barcode information.



The move came a day after a federal judge [refused to block](#) President **Donald Trump**'s executive order aiming to limit mail-in voting. [The order](#), which forms the basis for the Postal Service's new rule, would require election officials to share a list of voters who have requested mail-in or absentee ballots with USPS at least 30 days before ballots are sent out. USPS would be barred from sending ballots to anyone not on that list. The agency [would also be](#) in charge of associating names of mail-in voters with "a unique barcode"

assigned to their ballots, [potentially](#) eroding state election officials' power.

Separately, the U.S. Supreme Court [is expected](#) to rule in a state voting rights case later this month that could further complicate voting by mail. The Mississippi Alliance joined the Vet Voice Foundation as an intervenor in the case last year. In March, the court heard oral arguments seeking to repeal a Mississippi state law permitting election officials to count ballots postmarked by Election Day. Voting rights advocates expect the court to rule in favor of overturning the law. This would cause chaos for voters in 29 states that provide grace periods allowing officials to count ballots postmarked on or before Election Day. More than 46 million voters ([about 30 percent](#)) cast their ballots by mail in 2024, and 119,000 of those took longer than seven days to deliver, according to the Postal Service.

"The Administration insists that this is about election integrity, but making it harder to vote by mail won't make elections more secure," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "This will

just introduce unnecessary administrative burdens for millions of Americans exercising their Constitutional right to vote – including seniors who vote by mail at the highest rates.”

## Administration Releases More Stringent Medicaid Work Requirements for States

[New guidance](#) from the Administration shows that Medicaid work requirements introduced in the Republican tax law passed last summer will be even more strict than expected. Starting next year, older adults will have to demonstrate that they have worked, volunteered, or attended school at least 80 hours a month to keep their Medicaid coverage.

The law passed by Congress said “medically frail” individuals could bypass the work requirements and remain eligible for Medicaid. But the rule released this week narrows the definition of who is considered “medically frail,” specifying that only patients who can prove that their condition(s) “significantly impairs” their ability to meet work requirements can qualify for exemption. Last year, experts predicted that about five million Americans would lose coverage because of the work requirements.

“Millions of Americans – including seniors – rely on Medicaid for health and long-term care coverage,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We said this law was cruel when it was passed, and Americans are about to find out just how far President Trump is willing to go to deny health care to Americans who need it.”

## REGISTER NOW: A. Philip Randolph Institute National Education Conference

Registration [is now open](#) for the A. Philip Randolph Institute’s (APRI) 55th Annual National Education Conference, July 22 to July 26, 2026, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel.

[Click here to register for the meeting.](#)

[The meeting](#) will kick off with a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, July 22, and conclude with a Worship Service on Sunday, July 26. **The cutoff date for registration is June 26.**



The theme for this year’s Conference is “ROOTED IN LEGACY... RISING IN POWER!” APRI encourages you to come prepared to engage in a serious way for the work ahead. Attendees will celebrate organizational milestones and strategize about how to mobilize their communities to combat ongoing social inequalities such as racial injustice, sexism, and denial of LGBTQIA rights.

The retiree registration fee for the conference is \$300. There is also an advance fee of \$200 to attend the Awards Gala and Dinner.

Hotel rooms must be booked separately. **The hotel rate is \$179 (single or double), and there is no overflow hotel, so please book your room as soon as possible. [Book your room here.](#)**

***KFF Health News: Baffling. Frustrating. Frightening. What It's Like To Be Sued Over Medical Debt.***

**By Katy Golvala, CT Mirror, Jenna Carlesso, CT Mirror, and Noam N. Levey**

When Christine Wood received a \$12,000 bill from Bristol Hospital, she thought it must be a mistake. It was more than she and her husband made in a month combined.

"I'm freaking out," said Wood, who lives in a 1,700-square-foot home in Terryville, a village just outside Bristol, Connecticut. "I don't understand it."

Wood, 52, had weight loss surgery at Bristol Hospital in 2022, hoping it would help with her sleep apnea and the pain in her knees and back. Before scheduling the procedure, she checked with her insurer, she said, and was told the surgery would cost \$5,000 out-of-pocket. She paid in advance.

More than six months later, Bristol sent Wood another bill that pushed the cost of her surgery to more than \$17,000. Wood said she tried to dispute the charge. The hospital sued her.

"That's ridiculous. I was told so many times by Aetna: '\$5,000 out-of-pocket,'" Wood said. "I never would have had the surgery had I known it was going to cost almost 20 grand."

Wood is among more than three dozen Connecticut patients the Connecticut Mirror and KFF Health News interviewed over the past year who were sued by their hospital or physician over unpaid bills.

[Read more here.](#)