Alliance for Retired Americans FRIDAY ALERT

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WSJ: SSA Commissioner Spied on Executives While Working at JPMorgan Chase

A new report from the *Wall Street Journal* has revealed that Social Security Administration (SSA) Commissioner **Frank Bisignano,** who is also serving as CEO of the Internal Revenue Service, directed security staff to monitor the emails of rival executives and employees and also accessed confidential legal documents without authorization. The revelation heightens concerns about data privacy at both the SSA and IRS, which have access to large amounts of confidential, personal information.

JP Morgan Chase investigators found digital evidence of unauthorized email access, computer keystroke tracking (which can be used to see previous drafts of written documents), and unauthorized access to a confidential Federal Energy Regulatory Commission document after **Bisignano** left the bank. Executives told the *Journal* that he used the surveillance to undermine their standing with top-level officials at the company and ensure that subordinates "remained loyal" to him.

Separately, on Tuesday, Sens. **Elizabeth Warren** (MA), **Ron Wyden** (OR), **Tammy Baldwin** (WI), **Sheldon Whitehouse** (RI), and **Ben Ray Luján** (NM) sent a letter to **Bisignano** asserting that an SSA email sent in his name contained overly partisan messages and misleading information about the Republican tax law passed last year.

"Beneficiaries are still reeling from the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) improper handling and accessing of Americans' sensitive SSA data last year," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "Now we have new troubling allegations that cast doubt about whether the person in charge of older Americans' benefits can be trusted with that highly personal financial and health data. Commissioner Bisignano has shown he is not fit to lead the agency and should resign immediately."

Long-Term and Nursing Home Care Workforce Being Gutted by Immigration Enforcement Actions

Senior living facilities have been forced to terminate caregivers as the Administration continues with its immigration crackdown, hollowing out a workforce that was already under siege according to a [feature article in *The New York Times*](#).

The article focused on the situation at one senior living community in California that is losing staff because of changes in two immigration laws. The Administration has dismantled safeguards for immigrants in the country under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), with the U.S. Supreme Court recently ending protections for 350,000 Haitians and Syrians who have TPS status, many of whom work as senior caregivers. In May, new policies also drastically increased the amount of time it takes to process status renewals for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), forcing thousands of immigrants to exit the workforce at least temporarily.

Millions of immigrants who are legally authorized to work in the United States serve in critical long-term care roles, including as nurses, dietitians, therapists, maintenance technicians, and other essential staff. At the same time, countless undocumented immigrants provide in-home care for older adults as part of a large informal caregiving workforce. Increased immigration enforcement is shrinking both labor pools, further straining an already understaffed elder care system.

Nearly 70 million Americans are 65 years and older, and experts project that 70 percent of older Americans will need help from a paid caregiver at least once during their lifetime.

"The Trump Administration is making the long-term care staffing crisis worse, and it's putting vulnerable seniors in harm's way and disrupting the lives of millions of immigrants who were following the rules," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Alliance Hosts "Stop the Scam" Webinar on Medicare Scam Ads

The Alliance co-hosted an educational webinar with the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) – entitled "Stop the Scam - How Meta Helps Scammers Target Seniors," on Wednesday.

According to research by CCDH, Medicare scam ads were shown 215 million times on Facebook in the last year. Meta (which owns Facebook and Instagram) earned a total of $14.3 million in revenue from those scam ads, which are aimed at older Americans. CCDH CEO and Founder **Imran Ahmed** gave an overview of the center's research during the webinar.

Example ad shown during the session

"Anyone who has encountered a scam online knows how sophisticated and undetectable they have become. This is no longer a problem we can solve simply by educating people to spot the warning signs," said **Ahmed**. "Frankly, you are up against the wealthiest and most powerful companies known to ever exist. Not the scammers themselves. It's the tech companies, because they're making billions off these scams and they have almost no legal obligation to stop them."

The session concluded with a discussion on federal and state legislation aiming to combat online scams from Alliance Legislative Representative **David Simon**.

Share your own scam story here.

If you missed the event, you can watch the recording here and read our fact sheet on combating online scams here.

***KFF Health News:* Trump's Personnel Agency Says It Will Remove Some Identifying Info as It Sweeps Up Medical Records**
By Amanda Seitz, Maia Rosenfeld, and Darius Tahir

The Trump administration is forging ahead with a controversial plan to collect the medical records of millions of federal workers and retirees, as well as their family members.

The Office of Personnel Management said in a notice posted last month that it will begin routinely collecting identifiable, personal health information on more than 8 million people — despite concerns from privacy advocates and Democrats, who have demanded the agency drop the plan. The notice will go into effect July 24, allowing OPM to begin its collection at any point afterward.

In reaction to privacy concerns raised by insurers and others, OPM now says the identities of enrollees will be "pseudonymized" — meaning names, addresses, and Social Security numbers will be removed — before the agency's analysts review the massive new health datasets it will soon begin receiving.

Birth years of enrollees will be retained, and the agency's "technical staff" will receive member IDs that it will scramble into different, unique numbers before releasing them to other staffers, according to the notice.

But the notice also specifies that OPM retains the right to reidentify the records.

Sixty-five insurance companies will be required to routinely send OPM detailed data — including names, addresses, doctor information, diagnoses, prescriptions filled, and payment details — on health care services paid through the Federal Employees Health Benefits and Postal Service Health Benefits programs.

In a change to its original proposal, first reported by KFF Health News, the agency says it also wants to peek at records kept by Medicare, the federally funded health insurance for older and disabled Americans, to examine claims from federal employees and retirees, and their families, who depend on both programs.

Read more here.