



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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

www.retiredamericans.org

Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

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Alliance Members Push for Action to Protect and Strengthen Social Security as Financial Shortfall Looms

Today is the 91st anniversary of the Social Security Act, which President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** signed into law on August 14, 1935. 74 million Americans [receive](#) monthly Social Security benefits, including nearly 58 million older Americans. But these earned benefits are in danger. If Congress does not act, the Social Security Trust Fund will only be able to pay about 78 percent of benefits starting in 2032, automatically cutting benefits by 22 percent – \$500 a month on average – for all current and future retirees.



Alliance members have mobilized across the country to highlight the importance of the earned benefit program and build support for action to protect it.



The Arizona Alliance joined Honest Arizona on Wednesday, August 5, to host a roundtable discussion featuring Rep. **Adelita Grijalva** (AZ). Rep. Grijalva updated members on the current state of Social Security and what needs to be done to protect it for current and future generations. Tomorrow, the Pennsylvania Alliance will host a Social Security town hall with **Bob Brooks**,

the Democratic candidate for Congress for the 7th District.

Members from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont held a New England Alliance Regional Meeting last Friday, and presented Sen. **Jack Reed** (RI), Sen. **Sheldon Whitehouse** (RI), Rep. **Seth Magaziner** (RI), and Rep. **Gabe Amo** (RI) with Retiree Hero Awards, recognizing their 100% pro-retiree score in the Alliance's 2025 Congressional Voting Record.

Other events were held in Texas, Nebraska, Ohio, and Michigan. In Florida, members presented Rep. **Brian Mast** (FL) with a Retiree Zero Award for his 0% pro-retiree voting record.

“Social Security just turned 91, and it’s more important than ever to the American people,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Congress must make the wealthy pay their fair share into the system so we can avoid automatic benefit cuts and ensure Social Security is there for future generations.”

Trump Administration Asks Supreme Court to Approve Executive Order Restricting Mail Voting

President **Donald Trump** [urged](#) the U.S. Supreme Court [to overturn](#) the block on his mail voting executive order after a federal judge [issued a ruling blocking its implementation nationwide](#).

The [Executive Order](#) requires state election officials to share a list of voters who requested mail-in or absentee ballots with the United States Postal Service (USPS). USPS would then be barred from sending mail ballots to anyone not on that list.

In June, USPS developed a plan to carry out the order and Postmaster General **David Steiner** [confirmed](#) officials would refuse to deliver mail ballots in states that don’t provide voters’ private data to the federal government, deepening uncertainty surrounding mail voting as midterm elections approach this November. Steiner later testified that USPS would abide by the court’s decisions.

19 State Alliances have gone to court to prevent the Administration from accessing sensitive voter data and protect mail voting.

“All eligible voters should be able to cast their ballots without facing unnecessary obstacles or having to fear that their private, personal information will be shared with the federal government,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “Making it more difficult for Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote does not make elections more secure.”

14 Medical Conditions Are Now Eligible for Expedited Disability Applications

This week, the Social Security Administration [added 14](#) conditions eligible for the Compassionate Allowances (CAL) program. [The program](#) – which started in 2008 – allows Social Security Administration (SSA) workers to process Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) applications for people with certain health conditions more quickly.

The 14 new conditions are: Adenylosuccinate Lyase Deficiency – Neonatal Form and Type 1, Aicardi Syndrome, Baraitser-Winter Syndrome, Beare-Stevenson Cutis Gyrata Syndrome, Bohring-Opitz Syndrome, CASK-Related Gene Disorders, Hepatosplenic T-Cell Lymphoma, Lafora Disease, Malignant Migrating Partial Seizures of Infancy (MMPSI), OPHN1 Syndrome, Primary

Cardiac Sarcoma, Primary Intracranial Malignant Melanoma, Uveal Melanoma – with Metastases, and Warburg Micro Syndrome. There are 300 other conditions that qualify for Compassionate Allowances.

“This is a positive move. People with these conditions should be able to access the benefits they’ve earned in a timely manner,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

[Find more information on SSA’s website.](#)

KFF Health News: Patients Wary of Governments, Companies Pushing AI as a Rural Healthcare Solution

By Arielle Zionts and Darius Tahir

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. — Two of the nation’s most powerful health officials predict artificial intelligence will play a key role in solving rural America’s health challenges.

Health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. told a panel of U.S. senators that AI nurses can provide “concierge care” to rural patients. Mehmet Oz, who leads the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, has said “the best way to help some of these communities is going to be AI-based avatars” that connect rural patients to mental health services.

And many state health leaders agree. They are using some of their funding from the \$50 billion federal Rural Health Transformation Program to expand AI among rural health organizations.

AI is computer technology that performs tasks that typically rely on human intelligence by finding patterns or generating words. It has the potential to improve the healthcare system by automating back-office work or identifying patients at risk, but several reports contend there’s little evidence AI can improve access to care and patient health in rural areas. It’s unclear how well states will track and share outcomes of the tech they invest in.

[Read more here.](#)