



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

August 21, 2026

Administration Plans to Deploy 1,000 Election Monitors this November

The Department of Justice [is preparing to send 1,000 monitors](#) to the polls [during the](#) midterm elections in November.



Department of Justice Building in Washington, DC

The Administration dispatched approximately 75 monitors to more than 200 polling stations in five states – including Florida, Wyoming, and Minnesota – during the primary election season. DOJ officials have not released a full list of states where it plans to send monitors, but officials have expressed interest in the battlegrounds of Arizona and Michigan.

The plan comes amid a [renewed push](#) from President **Donald Trump** to [restrict mail voting](#) and introduce more strict voter identification requirements that will make it more difficult for millions of Americans to cast their ballots. He [also recently suggested](#) that he wouldn't rule out declaring a "national security emergency" in order to

implement restrictions.

"Americans should be able to cast their ballots without encountering unnecessary barriers or worrying about intimidation," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "The Alliance will continue to monitor the situation and keep fighting to ensure that every American can freely exercise their constitutional right to vote this November."

Caregivers Get Caught in the Crossfire as Online Elder Fraud Spreads

Many middle-aged adults are part of the so-called "sandwich generation," helping care for school-age children and their aging parents. Recent reports show this growing demographic faces a new challenge from [AI assisted scams](#) that are disproportionately targeting older adults.

Researchers have identified several reasons why the burden of helping seniors is falling on their children. Seniors often rely on their adult children to help them understand technology, which can mean that the latter group must act as a fraud-prevention system for their parents. Many caregivers don't have the means or ability to seek outside help, meaning that they are solely responsible for ensuring their parents remain both physically healthy and safe from AI-driven scams. The constantly changing nature of AI also means that caregivers may not immediately recognize the telltale signs of a scam.

"Middle-age adults caring for their parents is nothing new, but these new forms of scams are. New technologies like artificial intelligence have made online scams more sophisticated and difficult to detect," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "The Alliance is ready to continue its work to address this growing threat. We will educate seniors and urge local and federal legislators to stop fraudsters and hold tech corporations accountable for scams that spread on their platforms."

Medicare Advantage Insurance Corporations Make Huge Profits on Supplemental Benefits

Insurance corporations are raking in billions of dollars through Medicare Advantage supplemental benefits – called "Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill," – [which have expanded dramatically](#) since 2019.

Medicare Advantage plans will receive nearly \$615 billion from the federal government – or \$2,660 per member – this year alone for providing supplemental benefits (about \$76 billion more than the government pays for traditional Medicare benefits).

Before 2019, Medicare Advantage patients could get standard options that traditional Medicare didn't cover, including gym memberships and dental, hearing and vision benefits. But the first Trump Administration cleared the way for insurance corporations to provide a wider array of perks with minimal scrutiny. These "extras" are required to boost beneficiaries' health in some way, but corporations have a lot of leeway in determining what's allowed and don't have to report whether patients actually use the benefits or how much they cost.

A 2024 analysis in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the money insurance corporations receive to provide Medicare Advantage supplemental benefits [would be enough](#) to fund dental, vision, and hearing coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries.

"It's clear that supplemental benefit offerings have spiraled out of control. Private insurance corporations should not have been able to make so much money with so little oversight for such a long time," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "Congress must put patients before profits and use that money to add hearing, dental, and vision coverage for Medicare beneficiaries instead."

President Roach Addresses Attendees at CWA Human Rights Conference

Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.** joined Georgia Alliance members at the Communications Workers of America (CWA) [Human Rights Conference](#) in Atlanta this week. President **Roach** delivered remarks at the event, focusing on how older Americans are uniquely positioned to take on human rights abuses and urging the crowd to take action to elect pro-retiree candidates this November.

KFF Health News: You Want To Join a Clinical Trial. Here's What To Know About the Hurdles.

By Michelle Andrews

Connecting people with clinical trials is complicated — even if people identify a promising match, there's a slew of potentially thorny factors, including geographic incompatibility, and financial and time considerations.

Simply finding an appropriate trial can present an enormous hurdle. In a recent online survey of more than 2,000 adults, 71% of patients with chronic conditions said they would be likely to participate in a clinical trial if given the chance. But two-thirds said that their healthcare provider had never discussed clinical trials with them. According to one study using data from 2020, just 9% of adults reported ever being invited to participate in a clinical trial.

Clinical trials are essential to the development of new and effective medical treatments. But gathering the real-world human data necessary to win Food and Drug Administration approval for drugs, devices, and other interventions can be an arduous task. By one estimate, up to 86% of clinical trials don't meet their recruitment targets during the trial time frame.

Getting people signed up isn't the only challenge.

[Read more here.](#)