



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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Supreme Court Blocks Trump Administration Plan to Restrict Mail-In Voting

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court [blocked](#) the Administration's attempt to monitor and restrict voting by mail. The plan [would have required](#) state election officials to share a list of voters who requested mail-in or absentee ballots with the United States Postal Service (USPS). The Postal Service would then be barred from sending mail ballots to anyone not on that list, rather than relying on state and local election officials.

Previously, 19 state Alliances went to court to protect mail voting in their states and prevent the Administration from accessing sensitive voter data.

"No one should have to deal with unnecessary barriers when trying to exercise their constitutional right to vote," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "Such attempts to inject chaos into elections show why all eligible voters must make a plan to cast their ballots in the fast approaching midterm elections."

ACTION NEEDED: Check Your Voter Registration Now

This National Voter Registration Week, it's more important than ever to make sure that working Americans and retirees are prepared to cast their ballots in November. Confirm that you are registered and where your current polling place is so you can make a plan to vote as soon as possible.

[Click here to check your voter registration status.](#)

Report: Medicare Artificial Intelligence Prior Authorization Pilot Resulted in More Patient Care Denials, Fewer Approvals

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [released documents](#) related to the Administration's Medicare AI-prior authorization pilot program, Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WiSeR) last week. The documents – released in response to a lawsuit filed by the

Electronic Frontier Foundation – [show that](#) the program’s rollout in six states earlier this year was rushed and has been plagued by widespread denials, delays, and technology issues.

Two vendors denied care at [unusually high rates](#) during the first three months of the rollout, ultimately rejecting 5,944 prior authorization requests. CMS forced one of the vendors, Virtix, to submit a corrective action plan because the corporation denied so many more requests than they approved. Under the program, Medicare pays contractors a portion of money “saved” from denied treatments.

Despite requirements to respond to prior authorization requests within 72 hours, patients also reported frequent delays within this three month timeframe, with one request going unanswered for 83 days.

The pilot program will continue through 2031 and Administration officials plan to [require authorization for](#) urgent services next, including air ambulance transport, cancer treatment, and MRI scans.

“These documents confirm what we already knew: that medical decisions should be made by Medicare beneficiaries and their doctors – not for-profit artificial intelligence corporations,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We urge Congress to take immediate action to end the WISeR experiment.”

You’re Invited: National Day of Action to Stop Online Scams

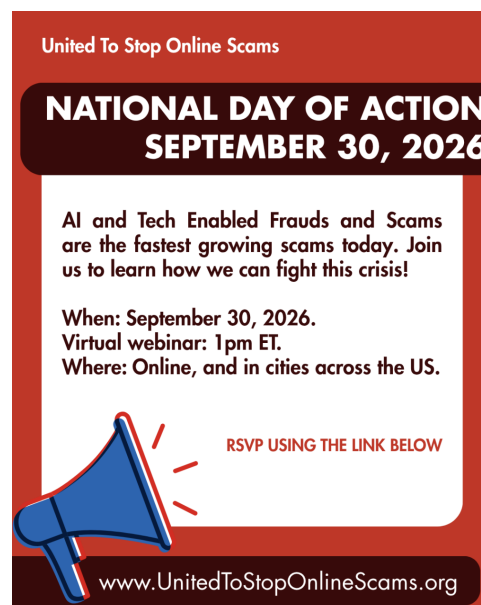
Every year, Americans lose an estimated \$148.2 billion to online scams. That’s an average of \$1,009 per household. Meanwhile, corporations are raking in huge profits. Researchers project that Meta made \$16 billion from scam and banned-goods ads in 2024 alone.

On September 30, a new coalition that includes the Alliance – called [United to Stop Online Scams](#) – will launch with a National Day of Action. This coalition is working to protect Americans of all ages, and particularly older Americans, from AI and Tech enabled online scams and fraud.

Please join us at an in-person or online event to learn more about how you can help stop scammers and hold corporations accountable.

Register here: <https://unitedtostoponlinescams.org/>

Florida and MD/DC Alliances Host Events, Alliance Leaders Address NUCPP Retirees



On Wednesday, the Florida Alliance held its annual Meeting via Zoom and the Maryland/DC Alliance held a public town hall in Lanham. Florida Alliance members received important legislative updates about retiree issues and heard directly from advocates and leaders from across Florida fighting to protect Social Security, Medicare, and strong unions. They also highlighted Retiree Hero and Zero award recipients and presented FLARA Awards in the evening. Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta** delivered remarks at the event.

Attendees at the Maryland/DC Alliance public town hall heard about how to stop online scams, get out the vote for this year's midterm elections, and engage with community members. Speakers included Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.**, Executive Director **Fiesta**, AFSCME Retirees Assistant Director **Ben Hodapp**, MD/DC Alliance President **Carol Rosenblatt**, MD General Assembly District 19 Delegate Candidate **Christa Tichy**, DC City Council Ward 1 Candidate **Aparna Raj**, and **Chris Goff** from Free DC.

President **Roach** and Alliance Field Mobilization Director **Maureen Dunn** also spoke to retirees at the virtual [National United Committee to Protect Pensions](#) (NUCPP) Conference.

KFF Health News: 3 Common Drugs Older Adults Might Be Overusing **By Paula Span**

The scenario often unfolds like this: Medical researchers investigate a frequently used drug and report that it's less effective for older patients than previously thought, or that its risks outweigh its benefits in older adults. More studies follow, confirming those findings.

If the drug's role is preventive, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent expert panel, may weigh in with cautions. The FDA may issue "black box" warnings concerning side effects.

After a few more years, researchers look at broad national data to see whether use of this drug declined. Often, the answer is: Yes, but not enough. Sometimes, though, use didn't decline much at all or actually increased.

[Read more here.](#)