# 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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**Save the Date: Alliance Retirement Security Symposium on November 10**

The Alliance's annual Retirement Security Symposium will be held on Tuesday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C.

“Retirement security does not just happen,” said Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr**. “It requires vigilance, advocacy and collaboration between workers, employers, and government. Our annual symposium brings people together so they can discuss important retirement security issues and learn more about how to address them.”

Interested in attending? **Sign up for updates about the Retirement Security Symposium.**

**Supreme Court Allows Trump Administration to Use Inaccurate Database to Purge Voter Rolls**

Last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed lower court rulings and permitted the Administration to use a federal database – called the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) – to remove voters from registration lists.

Officials greatly expanded the SAVE database with information from the Social Security Administration (SSA) after President **Donald Trump** issued a March 2025 executive order seeking to make sweeping changes to the country’s election system.

Voting rights advocates say the database is unreliable and has inaccurate data that could result in eligible voters being kicked off the rolls.

The decision does not authorize changes for the upcoming midterm elections, as the National Voter Registration Act prohibits broad voter purges in the weeks leading up to an election. But the ruling has opened the door for the Administration to use the database for future voter purges.

“The constitutional right to vote is fundamental to our democracy,” said President **Roach**. “All eligible voters should be able to cast their ballots without encountering unnecessary obstacles or having their voter registration status revoked based on faulty data.”

**United to Stop Online Scams Coalition Launches with National Day of Action**

More than 46,000 people, including hundreds of Alliance members, joined a National Day of Action Against Online Scams webinar on Wednesday and heard stories from scam survivors, comments from federal policymakers, and remarks focused on the need to hold artificial intelligence corporations and online platforms accountable for scams that are targeting older adults at record levels.




Watch the new PSA featuring PA senior Kate Kleinert

During the event, a new public service announcement was shown featuring **Kate Kleinert**, a romance scam survivor. The one-minute video produced by the Motion Picture & Television Fund shows **Kleinert**’s image and voice being manipulated into different personas used by online scammers.








In addition to the online event, older Americans gathered in seven different cities: Charlotte, Denver, Detroit, Madison, New York City, Phoenix, and Pittsburgh, to share experiences.

Sen. **Mark Kelly** (AZ) and Rep. **Valerie Foushee** (NC) discussed legislative proposals to combat AI-enabled online scams.

Sen. **Kelly** (AZ) began his remarks by thanking the Alliance for its work on online scams. “These scammers, well, they’re organized. They’re adapting daily, and they’re using the newest technology. Our response needs to be just as coordinated,” he said. “We can’t just tell people to be careful.

We have to keep the companies building these tools accountable for the technology they're creating."

"We know that platforms have the technology to detect and prevent these scams, but they are choosing not to use it and instead continuing to profit from real harms caused to their users," said Rep. **Foushee** (NC). **Foushee** is Co-chair of the House Democratic Commission on AI and recently introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 10433) to combat fraud by mandating that online platforms like Facebook verify the identities of entities advertising to users and integrate fraud prevention into their default settings rather than placing the burden entirely on consumers.

Other speakers included Secretary of the California Business and Consumer Services Agency **Rohit Chopra**, Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) Chief Executive Officer **Imran Ahmed**, Consumer Federation of America Director of AI and Data Privacy **Ben Winters**, and National Council on Aging (NCOA) Senior Strategist for Economic Well Being **Jessica Johnston**.

"While Washington argues over how to address future harms from AI, we can't lose sight of the fact that AI is supercharging the online scams that are draining Americans' savings today," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "That's why the Alliance is proud to be part of the United Against Online Scams coalition, to hold tech corporations accountable for the harms their products are causing Americans, particularly older adults."

**Retired Americans Action Releases New Ad Slamming Senator Jon Husted's Vote Against Stopping AI Use in Medicare Treatment Denials**




This week, Retired Americans Action, an independent political arm of the Alliance, launched a new ad warning voters about Sen. **Jon Husted**'s (OH) vote against stopping the Administration's harmful Medicare AI-prior authorization pilot program, the Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR).

Media reports have shown that the program's rollout in six states earlier this year resulted in widespread denials of care for patients, delays, and technology issues.

The program will continue through 2031. More urgent patient care – including air ambulance transport, cancer treatment, and MRI scans – will likely be added to the list of services requiring prior authorization in the future.

"Senator **Husted** had a chance to stand up for older Ohioans and their doctors, but instead, he sided with AI corporations who make money by denying Medicare claims," said **Richard Fiesta**, Treasurer of Retired Americans Action, in a statement. "Older Americans work a lifetime to earn their Medicare benefits and they should not have to jump through endless hoops to get the

treatment their doctors prescribe. Come November, Ohioans will remember who had their backs and who sold them out."

**Click here to watch the new ad.**

**Alliance Marks Hispanic Heritage Month**

The Alliance joins the AFL-CIO in commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month, running from September 15 through October 15. Hispanic and Latino workers are a crucial part of the workforce and have played a major role in the fight for labor rights.

Throughout the month, the AFL-CIO is spotlighting the work of several notable Hispanic and Latino labor leaders. In the lobby of its DC headquarters and online, people can find profiles of these leaders that break down in detail their contributions to the labor movement.

"We are always grateful for numerous accomplishments of the Hispanic and Latino members in our community, especially our allies in the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) who work every day to promote the rights of workers," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "We need to do our part to both celebrate and protect Hispanic workers and retirees."

***KFF Health News:* Midterms Have Revived Universal Healthcare Debate. These States Are Ahead of Everyone.**
**By Markian Hawryluk**

Democratic congressional members and candidates are already planning to use any midterm election gains to expand health coverage, including boosting Affordable Care Act subsidies, reversing Medicaid cuts, and lowering the Medicare eligibility age.

But Democratic strongholds across the country — including Oregon, California, New York, and Washington — have more ambitious goals: single-payer, universal healthcare systems.

No state is closer to that goal than Oregon. A panel created by the state legislature in 2023 is slated to send lawmakers its proposal for a universal health plan by Dec. 1. The nine-person Universal Health Plan Governance Board seeks to establish, starting in 2032, medical, vision, dental, and mental health benefits for every state resident from cradle to grave — with no premiums, deductibles, or copayments. Lawmakers could vote on a plan during the 2027 legislative session or refer it to voters as a ballot measure in 2028.

If approved, the state would be the first in the U.S. to implement what's called a single-payer health coverage system. It could serve as a model for other states — and potentially the nation.

Proponents of the proposal argue that the public supports universal healthcare more than ever as healthcare spending and complexity grow. Surveys show patients often delay care due to out-of-pocket costs. And medical debt remains a leading cause of bankruptcy in the nation.

States have often served as laboratories to test health policies later implemented nationally. The Affordable Care Act was modeled after Massachusetts' attempt to achieve universal health insurance coverage, once single-payer efforts there stalled. And Canada's universal healthcare system began with a provincial plan in Saskatchewan.

Read more here.

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The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national grassroots advocacy organization with 4.4 million members fighting for retirement security for all Americans. www.retiredamericans.org @activeretirees