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RI ARA

Affiliated with the Rhode Island AFL-CIO
**“Fighting for the future of our members,
NOW, more than ever!!!!”**

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White House Conference on Aging: What the White House missed

Message from Alliance *for* Retired Americans Executive Director, Rich Fiesta



Rich Fiesta

2015 represents a major milestone in our fight for retirement security. As America prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medicare and the 80th anniversary of Social Security, we are reminded that these critically important social programs are here today because of the hard work of those who came before us.

We are also reminded that there are powerful voices in Washington and on Wall Street who want to dismantle and privatize our earned benefits for their own profit.

Next month, on July 13, the White House will hold its once-a-decade White House Conference on Aging. This is an opportunity to discuss the future of retirement security in America and the future of our earned benefits. **But, one glaring omission we've found from the conference's draft policy brief is the need to expand Social Security benefits.**

At a time when employers are phasing out traditional pensions in favor of a do-it-yourself retirement savings society, we need to ensure that policymakers in Washington understand that Social Security is the most successful social program in the history of the United States. It has a \$2.8 trillion surplus, and can pay out 100 percent of benefits owed for the next 18 years.

The White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity to shape the policy around our earned benefits today and for decades to come. And with Americans facing a \$7.7 trillion retirement savings crisis – meaning that for the first time in our country's history, current and future retirees may face a lower standard of living in retirement than their parents – and with many in Congress intent on cutting Social Security and Medicare, we must make sure expanding Social Security is a key part of the conversation.

Today, two-thirds of retirees depend on Social Security for the majority of their income. As we continue to fight for policies that protect retirees, disabled workers, children and veterans, we need to make sure that lawmakers understand that opposing cuts and privatization isn't enough. Right now, 79% of likely voters – Democrats, Republicans and Independents – support expanding Social Security benefits and paying for it by asking the wealthy to pay their fair share. It is time for our country's policies to catch-up with our priorities.

Sign the petition today! Tell the White House Conference on Aging that it is time to protect and expand Social Security benefits for millions of Americans.

If we want to truly strengthen Social Security for generations to come, it is time for bold leadership out of Washington and it is time to expand Social Security!

Thank you,

Richard Fiesta

Alliance for Retired Americans

From Rhode Island Alliance *for* Retired Americans President, John A. Pernorio:

As part of the conversation to expand and protect Social Security, Medicare & Medicare, we must also address the efforts to make sure the Congress of the United States enacts legislation to repeal the **Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision** from the Social Security Act.

The New England ARA affiliated chapters are in full support of H.R. 973 & S. 1651 to move the legislation through to passage and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation into law.

Together we can work to successfully repeal this unjust denial of earned benefits that affect so many of our members. For more information on the GPO/WEP, visit www.ssfairness.com

Social Security Works for Rhode Island



“We can never insure one-hundred percent of the population against one-hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life. But we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age. This law, too, represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete. It is a structure intended to lessen the force of possible future depressions. It will act as a protection to future Administrations against the necessity of going deeply into debt to furnish relief to the needy. The law will flatten out the peaks and valleys of deflation and of inflation. It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide for the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness.”—Franklin D. Roosevelt, August 14, 1935

Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Residents and Economy
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Women
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Seniors
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Widow(er)s
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Workers with Disabilities
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Children
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s African Americans
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Latinos
Social Security Works for Rhode Island’s Asian Americans,
Hawaiian Natives and Pacific Islanders
Social Security Works for Immigrants
Social Security’s Promise for Same-Sex Couples and Their Families
Social Security Works Financially

[Click here to see how Social Security Works for Rhode Island.....](#)



Save the Date, August 14, 2015

**The RIARA will Celebrate
two great events,**

Social Security’s 80th Birthday

**The Social Security Act was signed into law
on August 14, 1935 by President Roosevelt**

**Medicare & Medicaid’s
50th Birthday**

**The Medicare & Medicaid programs were
signed into law on July 30, 1965
By President Lyndon B. Johnson**

At the Johnston Senior Center

**1291 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919**

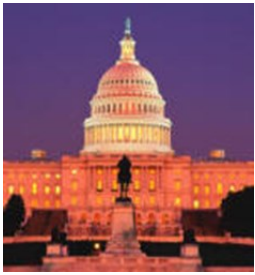
11:30 am to 12:30 pm

More info to follow



Alzheimer's research funding nears historic levels in Congressional action

Key Senate and House committee pass 60% increase to \$350 million to fight AD



The TV box was overflowing with news last week and generally pushed out of the headlines a very big story for senior citizens – record shattering funding for Alzheimer's disease research was sailing through Congressional committees.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the historic 60% increase in research funding last Thursday, pushing the total to \$350 million. If passed into law, this would be the largest increase in Alzheimer's funding to date, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

The association reported that the bipartisan effort in the Senate was led by Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Ranking Minority Member Patty Murray (D-WA).

“With this bipartisan call for a 60% increase in Alzheimer's disease funding, Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Subcommittee Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray are making history, said Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association.

“More importantly, they are demonstrating to the millions of Americans affected by this devastating and fatal disease that they will not suffer indefinitely.”

Just the day before, the action had been in the House.

The House Appropriations Committee approved the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bill, including an additional \$300 million for Alzheimer's disease research. Rep. Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) first proposed this landmark increase.

The Alzheimer's Association applauded Congressman Cole, Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY), Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY) and all members of the House Appropriations Committee for prioritizing the Alzheimer's crisis.

The Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which was enacted into law in December as part of the fiscal year 2015 funding bill, creates a formal process to ensure that scientific judgment will guide Congress in future Alzheimer's research funding decisions.

Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will submit a Professional Judgment Budget for Alzheimer's disease research each year until 2025 to achieve annual research milestones established under the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*.

It will reflect the state of Alzheimer's knowledge and the required investments in research identified by leading scientists to achieve the plan's primary goal to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease, which is the only leading cause of death among the top 10 in the U.S. without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression, receives \$586 million. Leading experts have stated that a ramp up to \$2 billion a year is necessary to meet the primary goal of the National Alzheimer's Plan, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

For more information, visit alz.org.

Senior citizens led swing to support same-sex marriage but still most against

Pew Research has followed issue for years and has insights into change

You will probably be surprised to learn that senior citizens – called the Silents by researchers at Pew Research Center – led the nation in the wide-spread swing over the last 10 years to acceptance of same-sex marriage, which was approved by the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

The percentage of seniors in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to marry increased by 70% from 2005 to 2015, although, it still represents a minority of the elderly and keeps them in last place among other adult age groups in accepting this societal change.

The decision last week may not have been as far reaching as you previously assumed, too. There were only 14 states that still prohibited these unions.

Pew researchers have tracked the issue for years and in a comparison of the change in attitudes by adult age groups they found that the Silents – those born in 1928 through 1945 – were very negative on the idea 10 years ago. Only 23% supported it. The percentage in favor of the change this year has grown to 39...[Read More](#)



Senior citizens keeping web hot with discussions about sex

New study monitored discussions on websites in U.S., United Kingdom, Canada and Australia



A newly published study indicates senior citizens and other older adults are keeping the web hot with discussions about the joys of sex and the sharing of advice about how to keep their mojos working.

"Websites geared toward older adults are providing this population with new opportunities to discuss and explore its sexuality," according to the research published by Dr. Galit Nimrod, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and Dr. Liza Berdychevsky of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

According to their paper published online in the Journal of Leisure Research, senior communities offer notable potential for helping people cope with the three primary sexual vulnerabilities that occur in later life: health issues and life circumstances that affect sexuality, difficulties communicating with health care providers about sex-related problems and limited access to sexual health information.

"Many older people preserve both a high interest in sex and a high involvement in sexual activities," says Dr. Berdychevsky, who completed graduate and undergraduate studies at BGU and is now an assistant professor in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism at U of I.

"The popularity of sex-related discussions in seniors' online communities suggests that in a reality of limited alternatives for open and direct sex-related communication, seniors are finding channels to satisfy their needs for information and support."...[Read More](#)

Boomers with Obamacare health plans may face choices before joining Medicare

Some soon-to-be senior citizens may want to keep their marketplace subsidy

By Susan Jaffe, Kaiser Health News

Before the Affordable Care Act, older adults who couldn't afford to buy their own health insurance would count the days until their 65th birthday, when Medicare would kick in. Now, 10,000 Americans hit that milestone every day, but for some who have coverage through the ACA's insurance marketplaces, Medicare may not be the obvious next step.

"Consumers eligible for Medicare can keep or renew their marketplace plan," said Medicare spokesman Alper Ozinal, as long as they don't also join Medicare.

However, only a minority of those who have qualified for the health law subsidies that reduce their plans' premium costs and cost-sharing will be able to keep that financial assistance once they become eligible for Medicare, Ozinal said...

"This is an area of great confusion," said Burns. California Medicare counselors are reporting that people in marketplace plans are seeking help after their initial Medicare enrollment period has passed. "They didn't understand the consequences of not signing up for Medicare," she said. "And some didn't even know they should."...[Read More](#)



The New England ARA state affiliates are actively pursuing these Petitions.

ADD
YOUR
NAME

Petition Get The Message Out: Sub-SIGN THE PETITION!!!!

Petition Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 37 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 to get power doors installed in Post Offices and other federal buildings.

ADD
YOUR
NAME

Get The Message Out: SIGN THE PETITION!!!!

Petition Subject: Elimination of the Unfair GPO and WEP Provisions of the Social Security Act to make sure the Congress of the United States enacts legislation, HR.973 & S.1651

ADD
YOUR
NAME

Get The Message Out: SIGN THE PETITION!!!!