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RI ARA

*“Fighting for the future of our members,
NOW, more than ever!!!!”*

Affiliated with the Rhode Island AFL-CIO



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Executive Action on Immigration Will Improve the Finances of Social Security and Medicare

Protection of Millions from Deportation is Not the Only Benefit

The following statement was issued today by Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans, and Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, in response to President Obama’s unveiling of executive action on immigration on Thursday.



“Not only would President Obama’s executive action protect 5 to 8 million aspiring Americans from deportation and extend the Dream Act, it would also help strengthen the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.

“According to the Center for American Progress, if 85% of undocumented workers were to pay Social Security payroll taxes, those workers would add \$1.2 trillion into the Social Security Trust Fund during the 36 years when Social Security will be most affected



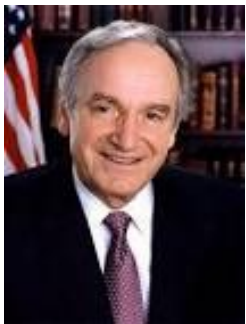
by Baby Boomers’ retirements. (<http://tinyurl.com/qctsili>)

“Since the average undocumented worker today is 36-years-old, most immigrants will pay into the Social Security and Medicare systems for at least 20 years if given the chance.

“Furthermore, if 85% of undocumented workers contributed to Medicare, they would pay \$253 billion into the Medicare Trust Fund over 20 years. Since Medicare is estimated to provide only \$51 billion in Medicare Part A services during that time, undocumented immigrants’ net contribution to the trust fund over the next 20 years would be \$202 billion. (<http://tinyurl.com/ncrj9vy>)

“For more information on how to apply for this administrative relief, please visit iAmerica (<http://iamerica.org>), a resource for American immigrant families of all walks of life, providing tools and support to get informed, inspire change and impact America’s future. For more information about issues affecting retirees, please sign up for the *Friday Alert* at <http://retiredamericans.org>.”

Thank Social Security Hero Tom Harkin!



Sen. **Tom Harkin** (D-IA) is retiring after 40 years of dedicated public service, including the championing of policies and legislation benefiting Social Security and Medicare recipients and their families. One of those pieces of legislation was the Strengthening Social Security Act (S.567), designed to immediately increase current benefits by about \$800 annually, improve Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and ensure the program’s future to make retirement more secure for our children and grandchildren, too. To thank Sen. Harkin for his years of service - and pledge to support the Alliance in doing all you can to help secure his legacy with the reintroduction and passage of this important legislation in the 114th United States Congress - go to <http://tinyurl.com/lbp577e>.

From the Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans



Happy Thanksgiving to All



The Social Security Administration's Agency Financial Report (AFR) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014



Our FY 2014 AFR provides information enabling the Congress, the President, and the public to assess our stewardship over the financial resources entrusted to us and our performance as an organization. The report provides a discussion of our programs, organization, and how we benefit the public; a high-level summary of our accomplishments during the year; a discussion of the challenges we face going forward; and an analysis of our financial position. The AFR also includes information on our program integrity efforts, as well as the Inspector General's Statement on SSA's Major Management and Performance Challenges. The report includes our annual audited financial statements and the report on the audit of those financial statements. FY 2014 marks the 28th year that we published audited financial statements and the 21st year that we received an unmodified opinion on our financial statements.

In accordance with Office of Management and Budget guidance, our AFR addresses the mandatory reporting requirements of the Chief Financial Officers Act, the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, and the Debt Collection Improvement Act. The AFR also satisfies the reporting requirements of Section 206(g) of the Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act, as well as the Improper Payments Information Act, as amended...[Read More](#)

Disabled Senior Who Won Suit Against Medicare Must Try Again

Can Medicare deny coverage because you are not getting better?

Even if they say they won't? A story every senior should read

By [Susan Jaffe, Kaiser Health News](#) - *This KHN story also ran in [NPR's Shots blog](#).*

A 78-year-old Vermont mother of four who helped change Medicare coverage for millions of other seniors is still fighting to persuade the government to pay for her own care. Glenda Jimmo, who is legally blind and has a partially amputated leg due to complications from diabetes, was the lead plaintiff in a 2011 class-action lawsuit seeking to broaden Medicare's criteria for covering physical therapy and other care delivered by skilled professionals.

In 2012, the government agreed to settle the case, saying that people cannot be denied coverage solely because they have reached a plateau and are not getting better.

The landmark settlement was a victory for Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions and disabilities who had been frequently denied coverage under what is known as "the improvement standard" — a judgment about whether they are likely to improve if they get additional treatment. It also gave seniors a second chance to appeal for coverage if their claims had been denied because they were not improving...[Read More](#)



Disabled Senior Citizen Wins Again Over Medicare Lawyers

She wins fight against controversial effort by Medicare to refuse care if you are not improving

Original report by Susan Jaffe, Kaiser Health News



I'll bet lawyers for Medicare hate to walk into a courtroom and see Glenda Jimmo, 78, sitting at the plaintiff's table. The disabled senior with serious health problems, who successfully challenged Medicare for denying her home health care coverage, has racked up another win against the government. In the latest case, Medicare refused to pay for her care because she was not improving - the same issue she won in the first lawsuit.

She argued in her [latest federal challenge](#) filed in June that Medicare should have paid for the nursing care and other skilled services she received at her home during 2007. On Wednesday, Medicare officials agreed, invalidating an April ruling that she was not entitled to coverage because her condition had stabilized and she was not improving.

"I won," said Jimmo, who is receiving rehab therapy at a Vermont nursing home and hopes to return home soon. "I'm very pleased. It makes me feel America is still in good shape."

The settlement doesn't mention that Jimmo was the lead plaintiff in a 2011 class-action lawsuit seeking to eliminate the so-called "improvement standard" as a criteria for Medicare coverage...[Read More](#)

Stent Patients Suffer Fewer Heart Attacks if Anti-Clotting Meds Extended

Benefits extended if taken for more than standard 12 months - patients average age 62



Patients - average age 62 - who took two anti-clotting medications beyond the standard 12 months after stent placement were significantly less likely to develop blood clots within their stents or to have a heart attack than those whose treatment followed the 12-month protocol, according to late-breaking clinical trial research presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2014.

"We know that dual antiplatelet therapy is essential for all patients receiving coronary stents to prevent blood clots within the stents (in-stent thrombosis). This study showed that the preventive benefit continues when the medications can be taken for more than one year," said the study's principal investigator and lead author, Laura Mauri, M.D., M.Sc... [Read More](#)

More Heart Attack Victims Saved with Faster Response of Coordinated Effort

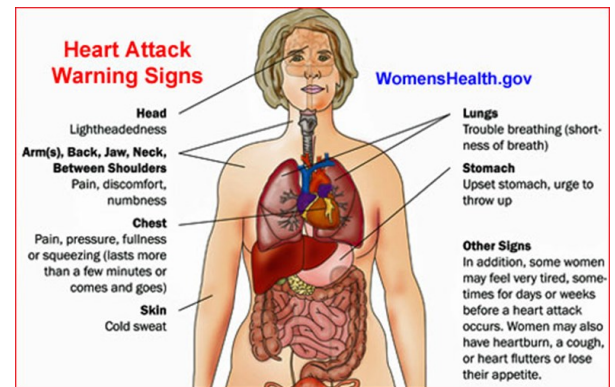
Collaboration between paramedics and hospitals in treating heart attack patients resulted in shorter emergency department wait times that result in better survival.

Virtually all senior citizens know that when a heart attack strikes, the faster the victim receives medical attention, the better the chances the patient will survive. A report released today about a coordinated emergency response system proves faster care can save thousands of lives and that it is possible to speed up the rescue effort.

The project focused on ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the type of heart attack that occurs when a vessel supplying blood to the heart is suddenly and completely blocked. Quickly opening the blocked artery can restore normal blood flow and minimize heart damage.

Nearly half of the more than 250,000 people who have a STEMI each year in the United States aren't treated within the recommended 90 minutes.

The report on the Regional Systems of Care Demonstration Project: Mission: Lifeline STEMI ACCELERATOR was presented today at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2014... [Read More](#)



Pain Suffered by Aging Adults is Topic for New Publication

One thing that does not increase your pain - this magazine is free

By Tucker Sutherland, editor, *SeniorJournal.com*



I have to admit I did not see this coming – a whole publication dedicated to pains suffered by senior citizens. But, when I stop and think about, I realize it is a major topic of conversation among many of my senior friends. This subject choice was made the editors of a new publication series named "From Policy to Practice" from The Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Oh, and did I mention it's free?

This first issue explores pain as a public health problem and takes a look at how various policies impact the care provided to patients in a range of practice settings, according to a news release. It also provides readers with an overview of provisions of the Affordable Care Act that address pain research, education, training, and clinical care — as well as steps taken to implement those provisions. Maybe they should be focusing on provisions under Medicare and Medicaid, however, if they want to help seniors relieve their pain. But, actually, the title just says is to improve the health of "Aging America," so that's a pretty broad age group – or is that everybody?

"An Interdisciplinary Look at the Potential of Policy to Improve the Health of an Aging America: Focus on Pain," as this inaugural installment is titled, aims to ensure that researchers, practitioners, educators, and policy makers are aware of major policy issues at federal, state, and local levels that impact the prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain, as well as the social and practical supports required by older adults with pain... [Read More](#)

Chemical in Coffee Appears to Prevent Weight Gain, Obesity-Related Disease

Previous studies have shown that coffee consumption may lower the risk for chronic diseases



Senior citizens are delighted to hear good things about their favorite drink – coffee – and it seems to just keep on coming. The latest is research that has found a chemical compound commonly found in coffee may help prevent some of the damaging effects of obesity and prevents weight gain. Researchers at the University of Georgia report in *Pharmaceutical Research* that chlorogenic acid, or CGA, significantly reduced insulin resistance and accumulation of fat in the livers of mice who were fed a high-fat diet.

"Previous studies have shown that coffee consumption may lower the risk for chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease," said Yongjie Ma, a postdoctoral research associate in UGA's College of Pharmacy and lead author of the paper.

"Our study expands on this research by looking at the benefits associated with this specific compound, which is found in great abundance in coffee, but also in other fruits and vegetables like apples, pears, tomatoes and blueberries."...[Read More](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY ORGS REACT TO SECRET CARRIER DEAL ON 911 LOCATION

More than a dozen of the nation's leading public safety advocates and organizations reacted with anger and alternative approaches to a carrier-backed proposal announced on Friday that would replace the FCC's proposed public safety rules for wireless 911 location accuracy with a "best efforts" approach that delays implementation and weakens or eliminates many of the safety requirements of the FCC's proposed rules.



The deal was negotiated in secret by the major wireless carriers and ratified by the executives of two groups, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), without the involvement of major stakeholder organizations representing police, fire, EMS, public safety, consumers, seniors, victims, or the deaf/hard-of-hearing. To see the list of Individuals and organizations submitting joint comments in opposition to all or part of the deal included: [Read More](#)

Spanish Friday Alert now Available

The *Friday Alert* will now be available each week in Spanish! To see last week's *Alerta Semanal*, go to <http://tinyurl.com/mq7gpry>. For the Alliance's Spanish language page, which includes fact sheets and other translated documents from the main site, go to <http://tinyurl.com/nllcz6n>. More outreach from the Alliance to the Hispanic elder community will be coming in the next few months.

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

Petition Subject: Observation Status: "Current Hospital Issues in the Medicare Program"

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YOUR
NAME

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

Petition Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 67 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 to get power doors installed in Post Offices and other federal buildings.

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**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 3118 & S 896

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