



## **CARA Alert – March 13, 2020**

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

### **COVID 19 AND CARA's RESPONSE**

We are reminded everywhere about the danger of the Coronavirus, especially for older adults and those with underlying health issues. CARA is cancelling all of our in-person CAT meetings, committee meetings, FORUMs for March (and longer if necessary) and moving to teleconferences and zoom meetings when appropriate. If you are interested in participating in a CAT meeting by phone, call our office at 877-223-6107 and we will tell you about an upcoming phone conference that you can join. CARA staff are going to be working remotely as well, but you can still reach us by phone or email as always. It is important at this time to stay in touch with our families, friends and networks – even if by phone or email or social media. It is a very scary time for sure, but we can take the necessary steps to keep ourselves and families safe.

At the same time, we believe every crisis presents an opportunity to learn, to connect in new ways, and to help and to heal one another. CARA is going to be expanding our online and virtual capacities so that we can stay connected with you.

Finally, as always, we must act to stop the spread of the virus and protect our communities. The President's proposal to eliminate the payroll tax is not the way to go. The workers who need the most support at a time like this (part time, service workers especially) will not benefit from this. And the payroll tax funds Medicare and Social Security – programs current and future beneficiaries need now more than ever. Please call your Congressman and two U.S. Senators to urge them to vote against this proposal. What we do need is paid sick leave for all workers, so that they can stay at home if they feel sick, without fear of losing their job, or not having enough money to pay their bills, and support for small businesses to help them weather this storm.

**Call your Congressman and U.S. Senator TODAY!**  
**866-220-0044 (TOLLFREE CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD)**

### **SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST PETITIONS** **NEW DEADLINE – MARCH 12, 2020**

The deadline for turning in your signatures was yesterday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We know there are some stragglers out there, so if you still have a few petitions with signatures on them, please mail them ASAP to the CARA office at 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610. We will check our mail a few times a week even while the office is closed. If you have any blank petitions, please recycle them.

The next phase of the campaign will focus on EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. CARA has been asked to get more senior organizations to officially endorse this campaign. The opposition is continuing to target seniors – with lies and scare tactics. The best way to combat these lies is recruit endorsements from senior groups around the state to show that seniors support Schools and

Communities First, and that these lies by the opposition are not working. You can get an endorsement form on the CARA website by going to our SCF button on the home page ([www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)). If you would like someone to speak to your organization about SCF, virtually for now or in person later, contact CARA at 877-223-6107.

## **SENIOR AND DISABILITY IN-THE-DISTRICT ADVOCACY DAY MAY 15, 2020**

This year CARA is organizing our Senior and Disability Advocacy Day in the 120 legislative districts – all on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are still moving forward with this date, in hopes that the virus will be contained by then. We will keep you posted on that. In the meantime, if you would like to meet with your State Assemblymember or Senator with other seniors and people with disabilities on key issues, in their local district office, sign up today. Email [caralobby@gmail.com](mailto:caralobby@gmail.com) and let us know which legislators you would like to meet with. We will get back to you with the time, location and list of others who will attend with you. We also will have a teleconference training in early March to go over the bills and issues we will be discussing at these visits.

### **THE FIRST VIRTUAL CAT MEETING IS HAS BEEN POSTPONED!**

CARA is moving all of our CAT meetings to a virtual platform for the time being. If you would like to join one of our CATs by phone, call our office at and tell us where you live and we will give you the date and time of the CAT teleconference closest to you. This will be a good chance for us to try out our CATs virtually. Please join us for an upcoming CAT meeting. You can also get a list of all of our CATs on our website at [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org).

**Get Social With CARA.** Did you know that CARA is on Facebook? Learn about our local activities and meetings, town halls and about other news affecting retirees. **Be sure to like our CARA Facebook page here.** Make sure your friends and family like this page too. Help retirees build power by liking CARA's Facebook page. Every like and share helps spread our message.

#### **You can contact CARA at:**

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