



## **CARA Alert – March 6, 2020**

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

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

Signature gathering for the SCF petitions has moved into high gear. The campaign is doing GREAT overall, and has moved up the deadline to MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> (instead of March 20!!). CARA is still working to reach our goal of 10,000 signatures. Please send in your completed petitions to the CARA office by March 12<sup>th</sup>- our address is 600 Grand Ave. Suite 410, Oakland, CA. 94610. You can also bring your completed petitions to your CAT meeting if they meet before the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. We will accept any stragglers by March 20<sup>th</sup>, but anything we receive after that will not get counted.

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, 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>. 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.

## **THE FIRST VIRTUAL CAT MEETING IS APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 1PM**

It's finally here. CARA's first virtual CAT meeting. If you have always wanted to be part of one of CARA's Action Teams (we have 17 across the state now), but there is not one in your area, or the one that meets is too hard to get to or on the wrong day- CARA is forming a **VIRTUAL CAT**. And the first meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. We hope you can join us.

You will be able to call/ZOOM into the meeting from wherever you are. You can use a phone to just call in, or you can also ZOOM in and be able to see the speakers and others who are on the line. Several CARA folks around the state have already contacted Jenni to let her know that they are interested. If you are interested in joining our first **VIRTUAL CAT on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**, contact Jenni at [jennichang.cara@gmail.com](mailto:jennichang.cara@gmail.com) and she will give you the call in/Zoom information.

## **WE LOVE MEDICARE, MEDICAID, SOCIAL SECURITY STOP TRUMP'S PROPOSED CUTS TO THESE PROGRAMS**

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

President Trump released his 2021 budget proposal this week and he is calling for cuts to most of our social safety net programs. Specifically, he is proposing approximately \$1 trillion dollars in cuts from Medicaid and Affordable Care Act subsidies, about \$505 billion from Medicare over a decade, and \$35 billion from Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. He is also proposing drastic cuts and changes to SNAP (Food Stamps) by imposing work requirements and cuts to the HUD budget and future subsidies. He admits that these cuts won't address our huge deficit (which his tax cuts to the wealthy increased by trillions), but will cut government spending over time.

**WE MUST STOP THESE PROPOSALS IN THEIR TRACKS.  
CALL YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!  
866-220-0044 (TOLLFREE CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD)**

Our elected representatives should concern themselves with the well-being of their constituents - who are entitled to their earned benefits, and who depend on these social safety net programs. Congress will be voting on the Presidents' 2021 national budget proposal in the coming months. They need to hear from you. During the week of February 17th our U.S. Congressmembers and Senators will be working in their local districts. We need to reach out to them when they are in California as week as when they are in Washington D.C (they will be back in the district in March too).

***Taking action is simple—you can have your voice be heard in 3 ways:***

**1) Make 3 calls to your Congressman and Senators Feinstein and Harris.** Ask them to oppose any cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, and other safety net programs like Food Stamps and HUD in the 2021 budget proposal. You can find out who your member is here:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> Toll free number is Washington D.C. – 866-220-0044

**2) Visit your Congressman.** Make an appointment now to meet with your legislator when they are home - ask them to fight for seniors and people with disabilities by protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and other safety net programs.

**3) Email your Congressman and U.S. Senators.** You can find the directory of Representatives and their websites here <https://www.house.gov/representatives>. Click here to find the directory of Senators and their websites <https://www.senate.gov/senators/>.

## **SAMPLE RAP/ EMAIL TO CONGRESSMEMBERS & SENATORS**

Call the Toll-Free Capitol Switchboard at 866-220-0044. Ask to be connected to your Congressman. After you talk with someone, hang up and call again to Senator Feinstein and again to Senator Harris.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am your constituent. I am calling about President Trumps' proposed 2021 budget that includes huge cuts to the programs that I depend upon – and earned. I am a senior and I depend on Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, (and if receiving other benefits, list those too). I don't know how I will live without these programs that help me meet my health and financial needs. I am asking you, as my elected representative, to vote against these draconian cuts. Will you vote **NO** to the President's 2021 budget???? Thank you.

**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:**

**MAIN OFFICE:** 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610 / 510-663-4086  
**TOLLFREE** 1-877-223-6107 / FAX: 510-663-4099 / [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)

**NORTH:** 415-515-2156 / [jreid.cara@gmail.com](mailto:jreid.cara@gmail.com)

**CENTRAL VALLEY:** 415-515-2156 / [jreid.cara@gmail.com](mailto:jreid.cara@gmail.com) (Modesto – Fresno)  
714-460-3542 / [smeyer.cara@gmail.com](mailto:smeyer.cara@gmail.com) (Bakersfield)

**SOUTH:**

LA COUNTY: 917-424-3220/ [jennichang.cara@gmail.com](mailto:jennichang.cara@gmail.com)  
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