



CARA Alert – April 17, 2020

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

TRUMPS PLAN FOR “PERMANENT” REDUCTION IN PAYROLL TAXES WOULD UNDERMINE SOCIAL SECURITY

The following is a statement from Nancy Altman, President of Social Security Works in response to Donald Trump yet again calling for a reduction in payroll contributions: “For weeks, Donald Trump has single-mindedly demanded a reduction in payroll contributions. As a response to the coronavirus crisis, this makes no sense. It’s slow, inefficient, and fails to get money into the pockets of those who need it most.”

Last week, Trump admitted this was never about the pandemic at all. He said he’d support a “permanent” reduction in payroll contributions “regardless” of the current situation. The only reason to support this policy over better targeted, more efficient measures is if your true goal is to undermine Social Security.

Payroll contributions are Social Security’s dedicated revenue. They are premiums that workers pay every month in return for insurance against loss of wages due to old age, disability, or death of a breadwinner. They are the reason that Social Security does not add a penny to the deficit.

At a moment when the government is running unprecedented deficits, keeping Social Security self-financing is more important than ever. There have been continual attempts to cut and privatize Social Security ever since it was enacted 84 years ago. Each time, because of collective action, they failed. So now, the President and his allies are trying to “starve the beast” by cutting the program’s funding. This is the most dangerous attack of all. In this time of unprecedented crisis, we need to get assistance to people who need it the most without undermining their long-term financial security. Direct payments will do that. Trump’s plan to reduce Social Security’s dedicated payroll contributions would do the opposite.

CARES ACT PAYMENTS SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO SOCIAL SECURITY, SSDI, SSI AND V.A. RECIPIENTS

Under pressure from activists around the country and our allies in Congress, the Trump Administration has reversed course. Social Security beneficiaries will now receive their \$1200 CARES Act payments automatically, **without** needing to file a tax return. We must keep fighting for this to apply to recipients of SSI and veterans’

pensions as well. The \$1200 payments could easily be added automatically to the benefits these people already receive every month. The CARES Act specifically gives the Treasury Department the authority to do so. Instead, the Trump Administration is throwing up an unnecessary barrier that will make it harder for seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans to get the payments they desperately need. In the middle of a pandemic to which they are most vulnerable, the groups can't afford any delay.

PROTECT OUR POSTAL SERVICES

Like many institutions, the coronavirus crisis has hit the Postal Service hard, as business activity slows. In response, the government has approved hundreds of billions in relief for businesses and individuals. In March, President Trump personally rejected emergency postal service funding, and his Administration even suggested it would block the stimulus package Congress approved if it included help for the USPS.

USPS was given a loan. But it won't be enough. Without more funding, the Postal Service will run out of funding in September -- just before vote by mail and absentee voting for the 2020 presidential election gets underway.

The U.S. Postal Service is a vital American institution that has served a critical role for more than 200 years. We can't let it fail now. Call your Congressmembers today and demand these 3 ACTIONS:

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

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD SAY:

- 1. DON'T ELIMINATE THE PAYROLL TAX DEDUCTION! PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY.**
- 2. AUTOMATICALLY FUND \$1200 TO SSI, VA AND OTHER LOW-INCOME BENEFICIARIES SO THEY CAN RECEIVE THEIR COVID 19 STIMULUS WITHOUT HAVING TO FILE TAX RETURNS.**
- 3. PROTECT OUR POSTAL SERVICES. PROVIDE NEEDED FUNDING SO IT CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC.**

SENIOR AND DISABILITY DISTRICT ADVOCACY DAY
MAY 15TH – STILL ON with SLIGHT CHANGE

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH TELE-TRAINING AT 12 NOON.

CARA is still planning to have our statewide, in the district advocacy day on May 15th. Originally, we planned to have up to 120 individual meetings in each State Assembly and Senate district office. We are now moving these meetings to teleconferences.

If you would like to meet with your State Assemblymember or Senator with other seniors and people with disabilities on key issues by teleconference, you must sign up in advance. We need to give a list to each legislator so they know how many to expect on their teleconference. Email caralobby@gmail.com and let us know which legislators you would like to meet with. We will get back to you with the time and teleconference number. The CARA Coordinator will get in touch with you to confirm your participation.

We plan to have a TELECONFERENCE/ZOOM TRAINING on May 8th at noon to go over the bills and issues we will be discussing at these Teleconference meetings with our legislators. We will send the information about our Training in early May to those who have signed up to attend one or more of the legislator meetings.

CARA SING - A - LONG: FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AT NOON

Join Zoom Meeting by Computer/Smartphone (click on link):

<https://zoom.us/j/8308420049>

Meeting ID: 830 842 0049

Dial by phone

Use any of the numbers below to call in via landline/cellphone:

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 830 842 0049

SING-A-LONG LYRICS

(If you would like the chords to play along, email hali@yahoo.com)

LYRICS ARE ALSO ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL

Oh, What a Beautiful Morning (Rodgers & Hammerstein)

There's a bright, golden haze on the meadow
There's a bright, golden haze on the meadow.
The corn is as high as an elephant's eye
And it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky.
Oh, what a beautiful Mornin'
Oh, what a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feelin'
Everything's goin' my way.
All the cattle are standin' like statues
All the cattle are standin' like statues

They don't turn their heads as they see me ride by
But a little brown mav'rick is winkin' her eye
Oh, what a beautiful Mornin'
Oh, what a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feelin'
Everything's goin' my way.
All the sounds of the earth are like music
All the sounds of the earth are like music
The breeze is so busy it don't miss a tree
An' a ol' weepin' willer is laughin' at me
Oh, what a beautiful Mornin'
Oh, what a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feelin'
Everything's goin' my way.
Oh, what a beautiful day!

If You Miss Me at the Back of the Bus

If you miss me at the back of the bus, and you can't find me nowhere
Come on up to the front of the bus, I'll be riding right there
I'll be riding right there, I'll be riding right there
Come on up to the front of the bus I'll be riding right there

If you miss me at the cotton fields, and you can't find me nowhere
Come on down to the courthouse, I'll be voting right there
I'll be voting right there, I'll be voting right there
Come on down to the courthouse, I'll be voting right there

If you miss me in the Mississippi River, and you can't find me nowhere
Come on over to the city pool, I'll be swimming right there
I'll be swimming right there, I'll be swimming right there
Come on over to the city pool, I'll be swimming right there

If you miss me at the picket lines, and you can't find me nowhere
Come on down to the jailhouse, I'll be rooming right there
I'll be rooming right there, I'll be rooming right there
Come on down to the jailhouse, I'll be rooming right there

If you miss me at the front of the bus, and you can't find me nowhere
Come on up to the driver's seat, I'll be driving right there
I'll be driving right there, I'll be driving right there
Come on up to the driver's seat, I'll be driving right there

It's a Good Day (David M. Barbour, Peggy Lee)

Yes, it's a good day for singing a song,
And it's a good day for moving along,
Yes, it's a good day, how could anything go wrong?
It's a good day from morning' till night

Yes, it's a good day for shining your shoes,
And it's a good day for losing the blues;
Everything to gain and nothing' to lose,
- a good day from morning' till night

Bridge: I said to the sun, "Good morning Sun
Rise and shine today"
You know you've gotta get going If you're gonna make a showin'
- And you've got the right of way.

'Cause it's a good day for paying your bills;
And it's a good day for curing your ills,
So take a deep breath and throw away the pills;
'Cause it's a good day from morning' till night.

Bridge: I said to the sun, "Good morning Sun
Rise and shine today"
You know you've gotta get going If you're gonna make a showin'
- And you've got the right of way.

'Cause it's a good day for paying your bills;
And it's a good day for curing your ills,
So take a deep breath and throw away the pills;
'Cause it's a good day from morning' till night.

Yes it's a good day from morning till night
- a good day from morning till night
- a good day from morning till night

I'm Looking Over a 4-Leaf Clover (Harry M. Woods)

I'm looking over a four leaf clover
That I overlooked before
One leaf is sunshine, the second is rain
Third is the roses that grow in the lane
No need explaining

The one remaining is somebody I adore
I'm looking over a four leaf clover
That I overlooked before (Repeat)

Blowin' In the Wind (Bob Dylan)

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly
Before they're forever banned?
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind
The answer is blowing in the wind

How many years can a mountain exist
Before it is washed to the sea?
Yes, and how many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind
The answer is blowing in the wind

How many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes, and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind
The answer is blowing in the wind
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind
The answer is blowing in the wind

This Land Is Your Land [Woody Guthrie]

[Chorus]

This land is your land, and this land is my land
From the California, to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

[Verse 1]

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway

I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me

[Verse 2]

I've roamed and rambled, and I've followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
All around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me

[Chorus]

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California, to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

[Verse 3]

When the sun comes shining as I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
The fog was lifting a voice come chanting
This land was made for you and me

[Verse 4]

As I was walkin' - I saw a sign there
And that sign said "No trespassin'"
But on the other side it didn't say nothin!
Now that side was made for you and me!

[Chorus]

This land is your land, and this land is my land
From California, to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

[Verse 5]

In the squares of the city - In the shadow of the steeple
Near the relief office - I see my people
And some are grumblin' and some are wonderin'
If this land's still made for you and me

[Verse 6]

Nobody living can ever stop me
As I go walking that freedom highway;
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me

Here Comes the Sun (Beatles)

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear
Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun
It's all right, It's all right
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

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