



CARA Alert – April 21, 2020

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

TRUMP’S 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 NOW GO DIRECTLY TO SOCIAL SECURITY, SSDI, SSI AND V.A. RECIPIENTS

But those with dependents must file by 4/22 to get the benefit this year!

[Go to <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here)

Under pressure from activists around the country and our allies in Congress, the Trump Administration has reversed course again, and now ALL Social Security, SSDI, SSI, VA and other low-income beneficiaries will now receive their \$1200 CARES Act payments automatically, **without** needing to file a tax return. However, we have discovered another glitch in the system. In the late afternoon of April 20, the Treasury Department announced an April 22 deadline for Title II (OASDI) beneficiaries who had not filed 2018 or 2019 tax returns and who have dependent children to use

the non-filers' web tool to inform the IRS of their children. Those who miss the deadline might not receive the \$500 economic incentive payments for children until spring 2021.

We are already engaged in advocacy with members of Congress, the media, and the affected agencies. While we hope that Treasury will extend or eliminate this deadline today, it is still important for as many people as possible who receive Social Security benefits, have not filed 2018 or 2019 tax returns, and have dependent children to use the non-filers' web tool before the deadline so they can receive the \$500 stimulus payments for their children.

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 24th 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 halih@yahoo.com)

Yellow Submarine(Beatles)

In the town where I was born
Lived a man who sailed to sea
And he told us of his life
In the land of submarines
So we sailed up to the sun
'Til we found a sea of green
And we lived beneath the waves
In our yellow submarine

We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine

And our friends are all aboard
Many more of them live next door
And the band begins to play
(doo doo doo doo do-doo do-doo do-doo do-doo do doo do doo)
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
As we live a life of ease
Every one of us has all we need
Sky of blue (sky of blue)
And sea of green (and sea of green)
In our yellow submarine (in our yellow)
Submarine, (submarine, ha ha)

We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine

We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine

Feelin' Groovy (59th Street Bridge Song) Simon & Garfunkel

Slow down, you move too fast
You got to make the morning last
Just kicking down the cobblestones
Looking for fun and feeling groovy
Ba da-da da-da da-da, feeling groovy
Hello lamppost, what'cha knowing
I've come to watch your flowers growin'
Ain't you got no rhymes for me?
Doo-ait-n-doo-doo, feeling groovy
Ba da-da da-da da-da, feeling groovy
I got no deeds to do, no promises to keep
I'm dappled and drowsy and ready to sleep
Let the morningtime drop all its petals on me
Life, I love you, all is groovy

Lean on Me (Bill Withers)

Sometimes in our lives

We all have pain, we all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me sister, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
If you need a friend, call me, call me
If you need a friend, call me
Call me

Teach Your Children (Graham Nash)

You, who are on the road
Must have a code that you can live by
And so become yourself
Because the past is just a goodbye
Teach your children well
Their father's hell did slowly go by

And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
And you, of tender years
Can't know the fears that your elders grew by
And so, please, help them with your youth
They seek the truth before they can die

Teach your parents well
Their children's hell will slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (Alice Wine)

Paul and Silas were bound in jail
Had no money for to go their bail
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on
Paul and Silas began to shout
The jail doors opened and they walked out
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Hold on, hold on

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on
Only thing we did was wrong
Was stayin' in the wilderness too long
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on
The only thing we did was right
Was the day we started to fight
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Hold on, hold on

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on
Ain't but one chain that we can stand
That's the chain of a hand in hand
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on
I got my hand on the freedom plow
Won't take nothing for my journey now
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

*Hold on, hold on
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on*

*Hold on, hold on
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on*

Paradise (John Prine)

When I was a child my family would travel
Down to Western Kentucky where my parents were born
And there's a backwards old town that's often remembered
So many times that my memories are worn
*And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking
Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away*
Well, sometimes we'd travel right down the Green River
To the abandoned old prison down by Airdrie Hill
Where the air smelled like snakes and we'd shoot with our pistols
But empty pop bottles was all we would kill
*And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking
Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away*
Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel
And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land
Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken
Then they wrote it all down as the progress of man
*And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking
Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away*
When I die let my ashes float down the Green River
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester dam
I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin'
Just five miles away from wherever I am
*And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking
Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away*

You Can Get It If You Really Want (Jimmy Cliff)

*You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want*

*You can get it if you really want
But you must try, try and try, try and try
You'll succeed at last, mmh, yeah
Persecution you must bear
Win or lose you got to get your share
Got your mind set on a dream
You can get it tho hard it may seem now
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
But you must try, try and try, try and try
You'll succeed at last, mmh, yeah
Rome was not built in a day
Opposition will come your way
But the harder the battle, you see
Is the sweeter the victory now
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
But you must try, try and try, try and try
You'll succeed at last, yeah
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
You can get it if you really want
But you must try, try and try, try and try -
You'll succeed at last*

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.

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