JULY 31ST CALL TO ACTION
CALL YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMEMBER/ SENATOR
TOLLFREE NUMBER: 866-828-4162

Social Security

Congress Should SUPPORT Strengthening Social Security

- The Strengthen Social Security Act – SUPPORT HR 2654, improves the solvency of the trust fund by SCRAPPING the CAP
- It will improve the annual COLA – basing it on the CPI-E
- It will improve benefits for widows and widowers
- Congress should also SUPPORT HR 141, the Social Security Fairness Act which would repeal the GPO/WEP that denies certain public employees their earned benefits. We need your Congressmember to co-sponsor this bill.

Congress Should OPPOSE Cutting the Payroll Tax

- The payroll tax funds the Social Security program, cutting it will jeopardize the trust fund and the benefits of current and future retirees.
- Cutting the payroll tax is not a good stimulus, as it will not help workers who are unemployed.

Congress Should OPPOSE any Efforts to Enact the TRUST

- The bill provides no beneficiary protections from benefit cuts, nor does it mandate plan adequacy given the growing number of Americans who rely on these programs. The recommendations would be fast tracked through the process without adequate debate, consideration or public input.

Medicare

In addition to the recommendation to support HR 3 listed under prescription drug section, Congress should SUPPORT HR 1384 which would create an Improved Medicare for All system where everyone gets the care they need, where they need at prices they can afford, choice of providers and a comprehensive benefit plan.

Medicaid

Congress Should Increase the Federal Medicaid Match

- During times of crisis, like the 2008 recession, Congress increased the federal match to the Medicaid program.
- Congress should increase the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program (FMAP) to help provide for uninsured individuals during this pandemic.
- Further, in order to keep seniors in their homes and out of nursing homes, Congress should adopt the 10% increase in FMAP for Home and Community-Based Care included in the House’s HEROES Act.
**Prescription Drugs**

**Congress Should Enact the Drug Negotiations Bill (HR 3)**
- Last year, the House passed the Lower Drug Costs Now Act (H.R. 3), which requires the gov’t to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare and provide the discount rate to all payers.
- H.R. 3 would also cap yearly out-of-pocket spending in Medicare to $2,000 and limit drug price increases in Medicare Part B and D to the rate of inflation.
- Savings from the drug negotiations would be reinvested into Medicare to expand benefits for vision, hearing, and dental.

**Congress Should Ensure that any Drug or Vaccine Developed with Taxpayer Dollars to Treat COVID 19 is Affordable**
- Congress should pass the Make Medications Affordable by Preventing Pandemic Price Gouging Act, H.R. 6472, which establishes critical protections against drug price gouging amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The federal government has spent tens of billions of taxpayer dollars on research and development (R&D) of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, including $23 billion for manufacturing and purchasing, yet Gilead Co. increased the price of their drug Remdesivir, one of the drugs approved to treat COVID 19, by 30% to $3,120 for a five-day treatment.

**Front Line Workers and Nursing Homes**

**Congress Should Fund State and Local Governments to Protect Front Line Workers**
- The bipartisan National Governors Association has requested $500 billion for state and local governments. Congress should provide these funds to protect front line workers and help states continue to protect the public from this pandemic.

**Congress Should Protect Nursing Homes Residents and Workers**
- Over 50,000 older Americans in nursing homes have died of COVID-19 and many more are infected.
- Congress should enact the **Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers During COVID-19 Act (H.R. 6698; S. 3644)**. This bill would require, among other things, testing of nursing home residents and workers, an infection control specialist in each nursing home and $500 million to states for strike teams to assist nursing homes that become infected with COVID-19.

**Postal Service**

**Congress Should Protect the Postal Service**
- The coronavirus pandemic has caused a reduction in mail service jeopardizing the Postal Service’s funding, which comes from postage and parcel fees.
- The Postal Service is vital to seniors who rely on it to deliver their Social Security checks and their life-saving medications.
- Congress should support the $25 billion included in the HEROES Act to protect the USPS.

**VOTE and Protect Everyone’s Right to Vote**
- Sign up for **CARA’s Senior VOTE 2020 Program** and call a list of senior voters in your area to inform them about the important issues and encourage them to VOTE in November.
- REGISTER for one of **CARA’s 14 SENIOR VOTE FORUMS** in September/October 2020 being held throughout California. For more information and to register go to: [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)