



CARA Alert – December 20, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON – SEE YOU IN '22
CARA OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH – JANUARY 3RD, 2022



CARA Staff are taking a well-deserved break over the holidays. Our offices will be closed from Friday, Dec. 24th until Monday, Jan. 3rd. If you have an emergency, you can call or text Jodi Reid at 415-515-2156 or email jreid.cara@gmail.com. CARA wishes you and wonderful and relaxing holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

2022 is going to be a very busy year, with elections, legislation, and organizing. All of the local CARA Action Teams (CATs) will be kicking off the year at their January 2022 meetings, which will be held virtually in January, but many will be planning to hold in-person or hybrid meetings (in person and on zoom simultaneously) early in 2022. Make a New Year's resolution to join one a CAT in January if you have not been to one in the past – or come back if you have not been to a meeting in a while. You can view the list of CAT chapters here: <https://californiaalliance.org/cara-action-teams/>

CARA NEEDS YOU in 2022!

CARA WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS!!

CARA is proud to introduce two new staff members who will be joining our small but mighty staff team. Dwane Camp, Jr. is our new, full time Legislative and Political Director. He will help support the work of CARA's fabulous legislative committee and also help us develop our Senior Vote 2022 Program. Dwane comes to us after years working with Labor, most recently with NUHW. Dwane started working with CARA on December 1, 2021, and he has hit the ground running!

We are also excited to introduce you to our new, part time (20 hours a week) Central Valley Organizer, Yesenia Cuevas. Yesenia has years of experience working with the United Domestic Workers Union and was born and raised in the Central Valley. Yesenia is bi-lingual in Spanish, and will help staff the Central Valley, Fresno, and Bakersfield CATs. She will start her work with CARA on January 3, 2022.



Social Security 2100 A Sacred Trust Introduced (HR 5723)!!!

**CALL YOUR CONGRESSMEMBER TODAY- VOTE YES ON HR 5723.
CALL THE CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD AT 202-224-3121**

On October 26th, 2021 Congressman Larson (CT) introduced HR 5723, the Social Security 2100 Act. This bill will increase Social Security benefits for all beneficiaries, improve the COLA formula, repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), increase benefits for the oldest old, reduce waiting periods, provide caregiver credits, strengthen the service of the Social Security Administration, make it easier to get SSI and SSDI and begin to SCRAP the CAP by ensuring that millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share by applying FICA to earnings above \$400,000.

The first hearing was held on Tuesday, December 7th in the Social Security Sub-Committee of the House Ways and Means Committee. Testimony was given by many of CARA's partners including Robert Roach, President of the ARA, Betty Marafino from the WEP/GPO task force (which CARA is a part of), and Nancy Altman from Social Security Works. No vote was taken at this hearing. Many of the Republicans on this sub-committee expressed their opposition to this legislation, and getting HR 5723 is going to be an uphill battle. You can watch the hearing here:

<https://youtu.be/TnEhSFV5G6A>

The time is **NOW** to talk with our own Congressional Representatives to urge their support of this important legislation. We want this bill heard by the full House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate this year. Please call your Congressman and urge their support.

CARA MET OUR GOAL OF \$5000 FOR GIVING TUESDAY!!!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to CARA on November 30th, as part of the national day of on-line giving. CARA set a goal of raising \$5000 and we MET IT!!!!. This is the most we have ever raised in an on-line appeal (which we conduct twice a year in June and on Giving Tuesday). These funds will help CARA start our work in 2022 on strong footing. We have an ambitious agenda for 2022 and every penny is needed to educate and engage seniors on the issues important to us and our families. If you were unable to donate on giving Tuesday, it's not too late. You can donate today by **clicking here:** [Donation \(eservicepayments.com\)](https://www.eservicepayments.com).

MEDICARE PRIVATIZATION WILL KILL MEDICARE

The continued privatization of the Medicare program through Medicare Advantage plans, and Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs) is undermining the Medicare Trust Fund while filling the pockets of private insurers, hospital systems and some providers. At the same time, costs are going up for beneficiaries while choice of providers is being limited. We must fight to protect Medicare and work to meet the original goals of Medicare and Medicaid by covering everyone at less cost with choice of providers.

CARA held a very successful press conference on December 2nd to explain these threats to the program. If you were unable to join us or would like to share this information with others you know, you can watch the program by **clicking here:** <https://bit.ly/ProtectMedicareRecording>.

CARA will be working to engage seniors, our elected officials, and the public on this important issue in the months ahead. You can help by contacting your own Congressman and urge them to ask the Center for Medicare and Medicaid to end these DCE's and privatization of the Medicare program.

Contact CARA: NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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