



Illinois Alliance *for* Retired Americans

July - December 2012 Newsletter

Illinois Alliance calls on Congress to end Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest and protect retirement security programs

While Congress continued to debate deficit reduction measures as the fiscal cliff neared, IARA members took to the streets across the state to demand that Illinois' U.S. Representatives and Senators do not support tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% of Americans or cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.



The Grinch leads protestors in singing carols about tax-fairness in front of U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson's office in Champaign.

Only two days after the November 6 election, IARA members attended Illinois AFL-CIO actions, including a speak out in front of the Social Security Administration office in Aurora and a press conference in front of U.S. Representative John Shimkus' office in Springfield.

On December 10, in Peoria, IARA members joined the West Central Illinois Labor Council's candlelight vigil outside of U.S. Representative Aaron Schock's office.

On December 13, IARA members joined the Champaign County Health Care Consumers and Citizen Action/Illinois for a protest outside of U.S. Representative Tim Johnson's office in Champaign.

The very next day, IARA members held a press conference in Moline in front of U.S. Representative Bobby Schilling's office.

The national Alliance announces candidate endorsements to members

During the election season, the national Alliance for Retired Americans endorsed congressional candidates that pledged their support to protect retirement security for seniors.

On October 17, the national ARA held an endorsement event in Belleville for Bill Enyart, candidate for the 12th congressional district, where over 30 members gathered to announce the endorsement. In Pekin, on August 14, IARA members rallied outside of the Social Security Administration office to endorse Cheri Bustos, candidate for the 17th congressional district. On October 26, the national ARA held an endorsement event for Tammy Duckworth, candidate for the 8th congressional district, in Bloomingdale at a living facility for seniors.



National ARA members attend ARA endorsement event for congressional candidate Bill Enyart in Belleville.

The national ARA is proud to have endorsed these candidates and will continue to work with them in 2013. **The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans does not endorse candidates.**



Illinois Alliance *for* Retired Americans

July - December 2012 Newsletter

Senior leaders hold 2012 Truth Tour

To celebrate Medicare’s anniversary on July 30, IARA’s Truth Tour made stops in Moline and Rockford. Nearly 40 members in Moline delivered a birthday cake to the office of U.S. Representative Bobby Schilling to spotlight his vote to turn Medicare into a voucher program and leave seniors at the mercy of the private health insurance industry. Later in the day, seniors in Rockford held a press conference in front of the Social Security Administration office to draw attention to Rep. Schilling’s support of privatizing Social Security. Both events garnered attention from the local media.



IARA President Barbara Franklin speaks to members outside of U.S. Rep. Bobby Schilling’s office in Moline.



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Over Two Hundred Caregivers and Recipients Rally in Chicago to Solve U.S. Care Crisis

On December 1, IARA members joined over two hundred care givers and care recipients to hold a town-hall style event addressing America’s care crisis: the lack of affordable quality care options for older Americans and, and the struggle of caregivers for respect, support, and training. The event was part of a national campaign to transform America’s long-term care industry, called Caring Across Generations.

As America’s “age wave” begins this year—with one American turning 65 every eight seconds—transforming long-term care will become even more urgent. In Illinois, approximately 100,000 individuals receive state-funded home care. Currently, 18% of Illinois residents are 60 years and older. By 2020, it is projected that this age group will grow to 21% of the population.

The event featured personal stories by seniors, home care and domestic workers about the current care crisis facing the nation. U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, who introduced House Resolution 759, which supports the goals of Caring Across Generations, welcomed participants of the event.

Seniors and activists rally outside of Paul Ryan Fundraiser

On October 7, over 60 IARA members and Citizen Action/Illinois activists protested outside of a fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency in Rosemont where U.S. Representative Paul Ryan was speaking. Big Bird also joined the protest, highlighting Presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s plan to reduce the deficit by ending the subsidy to PBS. IARA’s Treasurer Katie Jordan said, “Paul Ryan and Mitt Romney’s economic plan is for the birds. Turning Medicare into a voucher program will increase seniors’ out of pocket costs when they are most vulnerable.” U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky also spoke at the event.



IARA Treasurer Katie Jordan speaks to the crowd outside of a U.S. Rep. Ryan speaking engagement in Chicago.