



National Day of Action: JULY 2, 2013



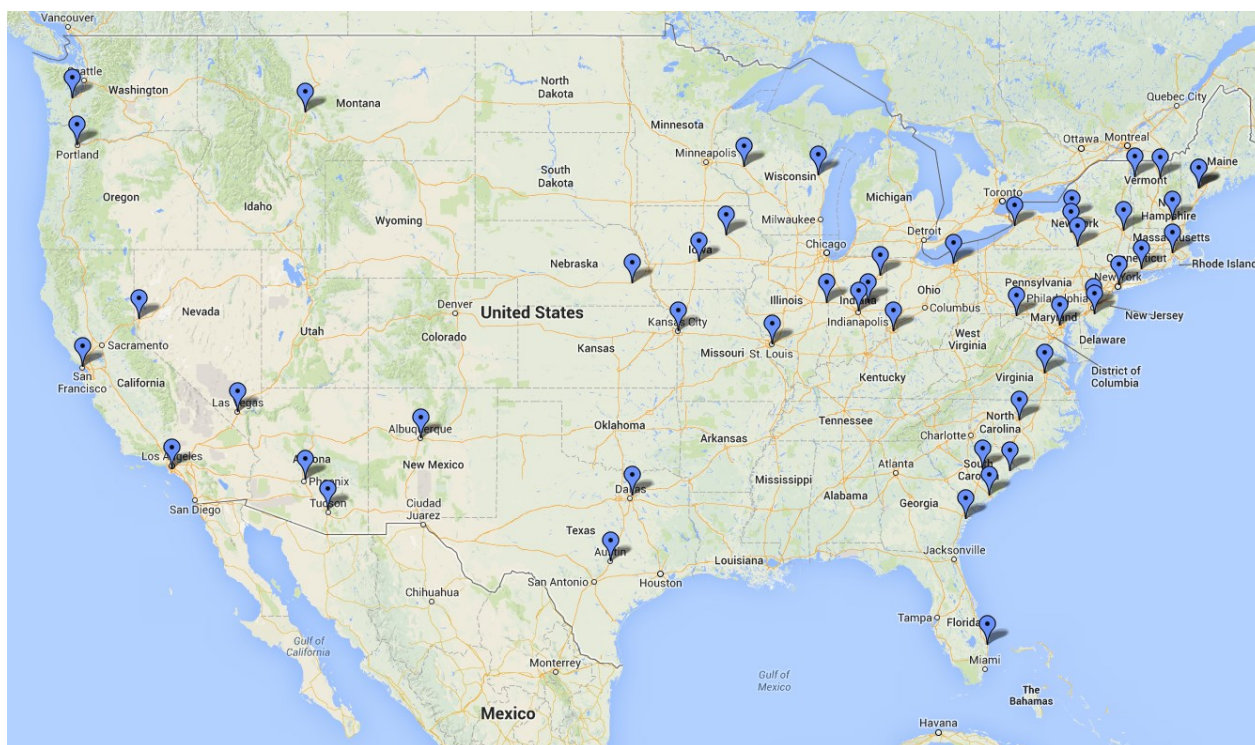
**Human Chain Against
the Chained CPI Events**

Action

On July 2nd, the Alliance for Retired Americans' Human Chain Against the Chained CPI events, designed to mobilize support to [stop the chained CPI](#) cut to Social Security benefits, took place in more than **50 cities** and included more than **2,800 participants**. Alliance members brought the issue of the chained CPI to many who were unfamiliar and generated over **120 press hits**. Dramatic television, print, radio and electronic reporting educated the public about the **devastating impact** of the chained CPI benefit cut and let the public know where their members of Congress stood on the issue. In addition to the forceful actions, we generated **thousands of phone calls** and over **100,000 emails** to members of Congress, asking them to oppose the chained CPI.

Activists' voices were heard not only in the halls of Congress, but in towns and cities across the country.

Phoenix, AZ ▪ Tucson, AZ ▪ San Francisco, CA ▪ Los Angeles, CA ▪ New Haven, CT ▪ Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Savannah, GA ▪ Des Moines, IA ▪ Waterloo, IA ▪ Danville, IL ▪ Ft Wayne, IN ▪ Indianapolis, IN ▪ Anderson, IN
Baltimore, MD ▪ Lewiston, ME ▪ St Louis, MO ▪ Kansas City, MO ▪ Helena, MT ▪ Raleigh, NC ▪ Lincoln, NE
Manchester, NH ▪ Glassboro, NJ ▪ Albuquerque, NM ▪ Las Vegas, NV ▪ Reno, NV ▪ Albany, NY ▪ Binghamton, NY
Cortland, NY ▪ Lackawanna, NY ▪ New York City, NY ▪ Syracuse, NY ▪ Cleveland, OH ▪ Cincinnati, OH ▪ Portland, OR
Philadelphia, PA ▪ N Providence, RI ▪ N Charleston, SC ▪ Conway, SC ▪ Dallas, TX ▪ Austin, TX ▪ Richmond, VA
Burlington, VT ▪ Saint Johnsbury, VT ▪ Olympia, WA ▪ Green Bay, WI



Working in Coalition

The July 2nd Human Chain events were large undertakings – many events numbered over 100 participants with a diversity of speakers thanks to the significant help of our coalition partners. To implement these events, the Alliance was joined by the Labor Movement, Social Security Works, Health Care for American Now, National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Working America, Center for Community Change, and many more.



Media Coverage



Seniors protest proposed social security cut
New Haven, CT



HUMAN CHAIN: Retirees Protest Inflation Changes
Des Moines



Retirees demonstrate against
proposed Social Security
reductions

Indianapolis, IN



Seniors Worried About Change In Social Security Benefits
Lewiston, ME



Protestors Upset Over Proposed Social Security Cuts
Reno, NV

For a more complete list of media coverage, please visit

retiredamericans.org/state-by-state/Human_Chain

Wisconsin Public Radio
NEWS

Senior Citizens Protest Chained CPI In Social Security



THE REGISTER CITIZEN

Connecticut retirees protest possible Social Security cut

NEW HAVEN >> Mary Moninger-Elia has been retired from teaching in the West Haven public school system for about 10 years and she currently gets around \$199 a month in Social Security benefits.

Now, some federal lawmakers want to cut the retirement benefits of Moninger-Elia and other retirees, and that has her angry.



examiner

Two July 2 'Human Chains' for Social Security in South Carolina



PROVIDENCE
Journal

Senior citizens say thanks



The Palm Beach Post

Seniors to protest Social Security benefit changes



Legislative Impact

The Alliance actively advocated support for congressional resolutions rejecting the adoption of the chained CPI. The resolutions - **H.Con.Res. 34**, introduced by **Rep. David Cicilline** (D-RI) with 117 cosponsors and **S.Con.Res. 15**, introduced by **Sen. Tom Harkin** (D-IA) with 21 cosponsors – send a clear message that opposition to the chained CPI is strong and growing. Alliance members have visited their representatives and senators in Washington and in their home districts and states in addition to the July 2 events. Many of the cosponsors are a direct result of this advocacy.

The Alliance also supports the **Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013, S. 567**, introduced by **Sen. Harkin**. It is positive legislation that strengthens Social Security by scrapping the earnings cap, changing the COLA formula to the CPI-E to better reflect seniors' spending habits, and gives on average an increased benefit of \$800 a year. The July 2 events were a means of talking about S. 567 and the need to strengthen Social Security without cutting benefits through the chained CPI.

Conclusion

The Human Chain Against the Chained CPI July 2nd National Day of Action was the largest and most successful campaign that the Alliance for Retired Americans has undertaken in our history. With the help of our coalition partners, state Alliances, members and staff, we successfully brought the opposition to the Chained CPI into focus. This will have a lasting impact as we fight to **protect, preserve and enhance Social Security**.



Rep. David Cicilline (at left) speaks to Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans about Social Security and the chained CPI in 2012. John Pernorio, Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans president pictured at right.



Rhode Island congressional delegation at July 2 event. L-R: Rep. David Cicilline, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. James Langevin and John Pernorio.

“Let’s not be the last generation to retire”



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