



CONNECTION

WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER



STAY ACTIVE • STAY INVOLVED • STAY CONNECTED

SOAR Activists to Converge on Washington, D.C.



After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, SOAR activists are ready to return to Washington, D.C., for the 2023 Rapid Response, Legislative & Policy Conference from June 11 through 14.



We know that current and future retirees' challenges were magnified throughout the pandemic, with more Americans facing uncertainty now than at any time in decades.

SOAR activists and active members of our mighty union are preparing to meet this moment with solidarity and resolve.

Unfortunately, some lawmakers remain emboldened to undercut workers' earned benefits in order to balance our federal budget.

So, earlier this year, SOAR teamed up with our union's Rapid Response program to roll out our "No Cuts to Retirement Security" campaign. We asked our local unions and SOAR chapters to adopt the "No Cuts to Social Safety Net Programs Like Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid" resolution at their membership meetings, and have collected thousands of our members' signatures.



The "No Cuts" resolution calls for encouraging members of Congress to raise or eliminate the debt ceiling without any spending concessions that would cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid and to protect these programs in the future.

To get more information about our "No Cuts to Retirement Security" campaign, Rapid Response created a very informative page detailing all the issues involved, resources and ways to take action here: <http://usw.to/NoCuts>.

If you are a SOAR member but haven't yet signed onto a resolution, you can still take part by signing our "No Cuts" online petition at <http://usw.to/4gu>.

We want our "No Cuts to Retirement Security" message to be heard loud and clear by lawmakers in the halls of Congress, so in addition to members of the SOAR Executive Board being there, USW District Directors are sending additional SOAR activists to this year's Conference.

We intend to show these legislatures just what our members are made of!

Bill Pienta, SOAR President and *Julie Stein*, SOAR Director

Canadian SOAR Members Support “No Cuts to Retirement Security” Resolution



Toronto, Ontario – Impressive! Even our Canadian SOAR members at the National SOAR Policy Conference held in Toronto got in on our "No Cuts to Retirement Security" action! In solidarity! April 30, 2023.

“Even if we make it through the immediate future without cuts to Social Security and Medicare, this recent behavior offers a warning that we cannot let our guard down. There is too much money at stake for some extremists to stop themselves from going after our earned benefits one more time, even if they have been advised not to admit it.” Stated on May 26, 2023, prior to the White House and the House Republicans reaching a tentative agreement to raise the debt ceiling.

Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance for Retired Americans

SOAR Celebrates Its 38th Birthday!



The Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees was officially created on May 23, 1985, at the Union’s 30th International Convention, when USW delegates voted unanimously to add an amendment to the USW Constitution recognizing SOAR as an affiliate organization of the USW.

Since then, SOAR has been integral to our union’s mission by actively defending vital programs, like Social Security and Medicare, protecting Steelworker pension plans, and more. Further, SOAR has engaged in countless efforts to assure security for current and future generations of retirees regardless of whether they belong to a union.

SOAR Chapter Dues Refund Option via Electronic Deposit Now Available

SOAR dues refunds can now be electronically deposited into your SOAR Chapter’s bank account, rather than by receiving a paper check in the mail.

In order to set up your chapter to receive electronic deposits, please mail the following items to the SOAR Office:



1. A voided check from your SOAR chapter’s checking account.
2. The most recent copy of a bank statement that will confirm the complete title/name of the chapter’s bank account and the current mailing address listed on the account.
3. A note indicating that you want your chapter to be set up for automatic deposit of SOAR dues refunds.

Send the above items to:

SOAR
 Attn. Julie Stein, SOAR Director
 60 Blvd of the Allies
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222
 Or, you can scan the items to jstein@usw.org

As a reminder, SOAR dues refunds are sent in April, August and November of each year. Once on direct deposit, a confirmation receipt for the amount of funds transferred to the SOAR chapter’s bank account will be mailed to the officer designated to receive financial mailings. Also included in the mailing will be a SOAR Chapter Refund Summary that lists the members who paid SOAR dues during the cycle.

Feel free to contact the SOAR Office at 866-208-4420 if you have questions.

Final Reminder Notice for SOAR Chapters:

Please contact the SOAR Office immediately if your chapter hasn’t returned the Annual Financial Report Form for 2022. SOAR Office toll-free number: 866-208-4420



Memorial Day Tribute

“The Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees honor and remember the heroes who have selflessly given their courage and lives to serve our nation. We will never forget their patriotism.”

**SOAR Chapter
Connection**

A bi-monthly publication
of SOAR

Julie Stein, Content Editor
Copy Editors:
Lori Bookwood, Cheryl Omlor, and
Eric Russell

Phone:
866-208-4420

Email:
jstein@usw.org

Address editorial material to:
SOAR
60 Blvd of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Articles and Photos Requested

The next deadline for the SOAR in Action magazine will be July 6 and articles should be emailed to the SOAR Director Julie Stein at jstein@usw.org

The deadline for the next publication of the SOAR Chapter Connection newsletter is July 25, 2023. Email articles and photos to soar3@icloud.com Photos should have a short caption included.



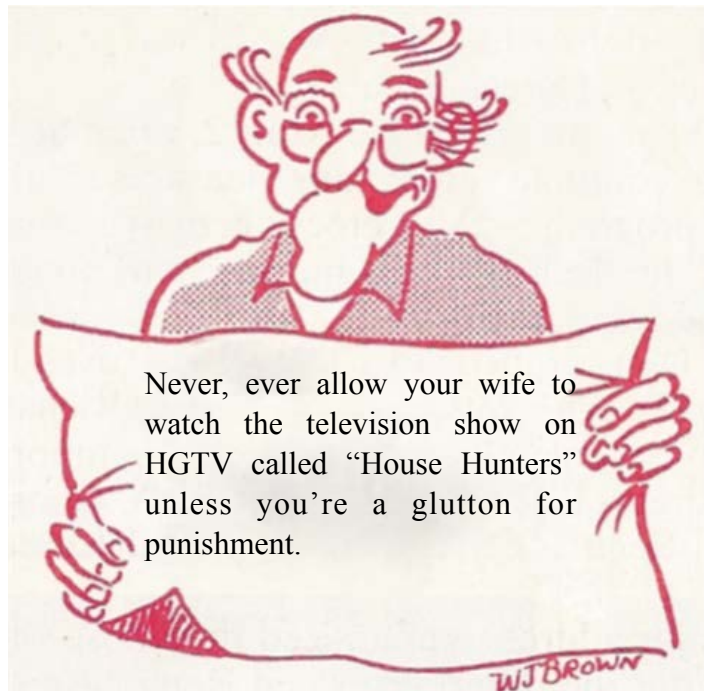
“Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian”... Dennis Wholey

The McNeil Report–The Obedient Spouse



There was a man who worked all his life, had saved all his money, and was a real "miser." Just before he died, he said to his wife..."I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me when I die." And so he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that she would put all the money in the casket with him when he died. Well, the day came, and he passed away. He was stretched out in the coffin, his wife was dressed in black, and her friend sat next to her. When they finished the ceremony, and just before the undertaker got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a moment!" She had a small metal box with her. She came over with the box and placed it inside the casket. Then, the undertaker locked the casket down, and they rolled it away. So her friend said, "Girl, I know you were not foolish enough to put all that money in there with your husband." The loyal wife replied, "Listen, I cannot go back on my word; I promised him that I was going to put that money in the casket with him." Her friend said, "You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with him?" "I sure did, said the wife. I got it all together, put it into my bank account and wrote him a check... Now all he has to do is cash it; then, he can spend it."

Old Charlie Sez:



Now Available!



SOAR ballcaps for purchase!
\$20 each + the cost of shipping.
Contact the SOAR Office.
866-208-4420

\$20



Hoping all our SOAR Moms had a great day! And, wishing all our Dads of Steel a great Father's Day!

The SOAR Office Now Has T-shirts For Purchase!

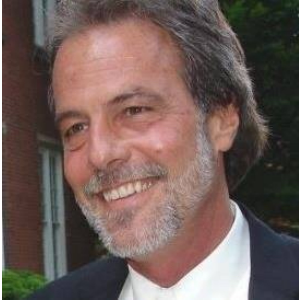
Just Arrived!



\$15

\$15 each + the cost of shipping. Contact the SOAR Office.
866-208-4420

New Bill Aims to Close Import Tariff Loophole



U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, said on Wednesday, May 24, that the Import Security and Fairness Act that addresses de minimis reform is set to be reintroduced to Congress.

Blumenauer originally introduced the legislations in January of 2022 to strengthen U.S. International trade import laws to stop non-market economies and goods from exploiting the de minimis threshold that allows imports valued at less than \$800 to come into the United States without paying duties, taxes, or fees.

Originally designed to relieve the burden of processing low-value imports for the U.S. government, the de minimis threshold allows goods to forgo a formal import process and skip duties, taxes, and fees to the U.S. government. The threshold for this exemption was originally set for goods valued at \$1 or less.

But in the 1990s that limit was extended to \$200 and was increased to \$800 in 2016. So, what we have now, is influx of e-commerce packages, many from Amazon, that enter the U.S. free of taxes.

“The number of packages we receive in the United States has skyrocketed to more than two million daily packages – a number that will only climb in the coming years,” said Blumenauer. “This loophole also makes it easier for people to import illegal goods and harmful products because there is virtually no way to tell whether these packages contain products made through forced labor, intellectual property theft or are otherwise dangerous.”

Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said: “We support this legislation to reform the de minimis threshold which is routinely exploited to evade U.S. enforcement actions against China and other trade cheats.”

We at the Alliance for American Manufacturing encourage all SOAR brothers and sisters to contact their members of Congress and voice their support for Blumenauer’s de minimis legislation. All those individual packages that are being shipped from overseas directly to consumers are using this loophole to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and fees that they normally would be subject to if the goods were transported in large shipments and inspected by U.S. Customs.

Please help Congress close this trade loophole by contacting your U.S. House of Representative member at their district office or you can call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and you will be connected directly to their Washington, D.C. office.

Jeff Bonior is a staff writer at the Alliance for American Manufacturing

Pictured right: CBP officers and import specialists assigned to the area of Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Photo by Ozzy Trevino, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



Help Spot Depression in the Men You Love

According to the [National Institute for Mental Health](#), six million men in the U.S. are depressed. But, men are half as likely as women to seek help for their depression or any mental health problem, putting them at greater risk of suicide. Older men are at greatest risk of not being treated for depression and have the highest suicide rates. Help spot depression in the men you love. Depression is a disease of the brain that generally can be treated through talk therapy and medications. Eighty percent of cases are treatable. If left untreated, however, depression often leads to suicide.

Depression in men may go undetected and untreated for many reasons. Classic signs of depression include feeling sad, worthless or severely guilty. But, research suggests that men are more likely to feel pain or anger or to be irritable. They might also experience sleep problems, inability to concentrate, lack of energy or lack of interest in activities. Men are more likely to conceal their depression than women and address it with drugs and alcohol. In addition, doctors may fail to diagnose depression in older men, focusing instead on their physical chronic conditions, such as heart disease or stroke. Experts believe that's why [men are three and a half times more likely to commit suicide than women](#). That said, [twice as many women experience depression as men](#).

Medicare Covers Depression Screenings

[Depression can be crippling, disrupting people's daily lives and normal functioning](#). But it is generally treatable if diagnosed. Depression is a common condition for older adults, too often undiagnosed and unreported. To help ensure older adults are correctly diagnosed and treated, [Medicare covers depression screenings](#). (Click here for a list of [preventive care screenings Medicare covers](#).)

Keep in mind that big life changes such as the passing of a loved one, retirement, or a serious illness will naturally cause stress, anxiety and sadness. These feelings generally will pass with time and do not mean you are depressed. But, they can also become all-consuming. Your doctor should determine your risk factors for depression if you go for a Welcome to Medicare visit or a Medicare Wellness visit. However, your doctor need not do a depression screening. If you'd like one, you should ask for it.

For Medicare to cover depression screenings, a doctor must conduct the screening in a primary care setting. Medicare will not cover a depression screening conducted in an emergency room, inpatient hospital setting, or skilled nursing facility.

The depression screening includes a questionnaire that you must complete on your own or with help from your doctor. Your responses will indicate whether you suffer from depression or are at risk. If you have symptoms of depression, you may receive a more extensive exam. Whether you have traditional Medicare and see a doctor who takes assignment or a Medicare Advantage plan and see an in-network doctor, Medicare covers the full cost of your annual screening—no deductible, coinsurance or copays.

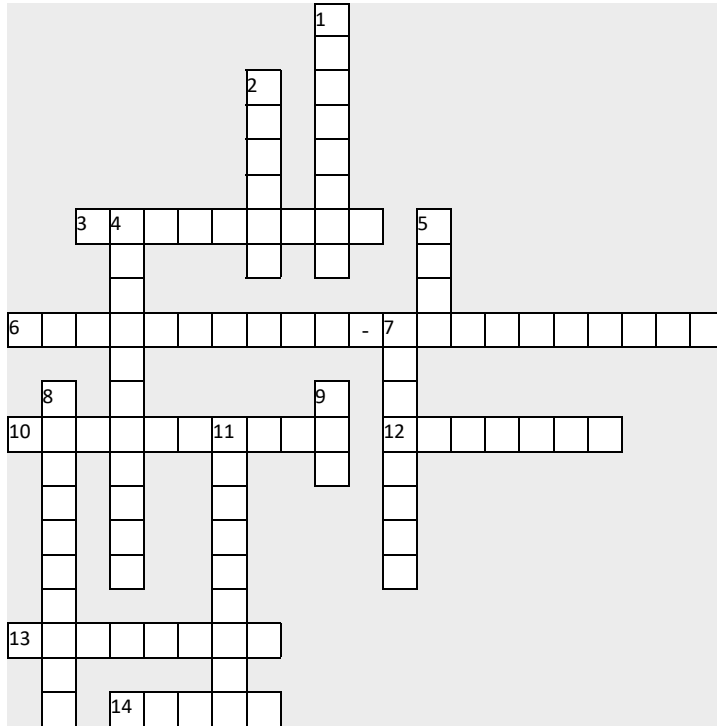
If you are diagnosed as suffering from depression, Medicare will cover your treatment from a mental health professional. But, you will be responsible for meeting any deductible you have and any coinsurance or copays. In eight out of ten cases, depression can be treated.

For more information on depression screenings, [visit Medicare Interactive](#).

Source: [justcareusa.org](#) written by Diane Archer

OLDTIMER FUN PAGE

Celebration of Seniors Crossword



Older Americans' Month Word Search



Across

3. What you should use your knowledge for
6. What you should defend (2 words)
10. What you should use your knowledge for
12. Upside of being a senior
13. What you should defend
14. Upside of being a senior

Down

1. What you should use your knowledge for
2. What you should use your knowledge for
4. Comes with wisdom
5. Downside of being a senior
7. What you should defend
8. Upside of being a senior
9. What you should defend

WORD LIST

- ACTIVE
- ADVOCATE
- AGING ABOUNDING
- COMMUNITY
- CONNECT
- DEFEND
- DIVERSE
- ENGAGED
- EXPERIENCED
- INCLUDED
- INDEPENDENT
- INFLUENCE
- KNOWLEDGE
- POWERFUL
- PROTECT
- SOAR
- STEREOTYPE
- TENACIOUS
- WISE
- YOUNG AT HEART



Extremists Openly Call for Slashing Social Security and Medicare, in Defiance of Their Leaders

by Robert Roach, Jr.



Political extremists may deny it, but right-wing media figures and activists continue to call for major cuts to our hard earned Social Security and Medicare benefits. You just have to go to the right places to find the evidence.

Media Matters, a broadcasting watchdog group, has found several recent examples to prove that not everyone is ready to let go of their long-held goal of cutting benefits or raising the eligibility age for future enrollees of one or both programs.

Several conservative media figures, activists, and politicians have made it clear that they have not given up on their objective of weakening and undermining the programs, often under the pretext of protecting them in the long term. This is despite their political leaders' directives to keep that a secret, because the idea is so unpopular.

Fox News host Mark Levin recently called for cuts on his radio show, but he did not admit doing so. "Now, this isn't about cutting them," Levin said, referring to Social Security and Medicare. "This is about changing certain variables in these programs for future generations."

Other Examples Abound:

The Epoch Times covered presidential candidate Nikki Haley's calls to slash Social Security and Medicare with the headline, "Haley Promises Supporters She Will Address the Nation's Huge Deficit."

On former Trump adviser Steve Bannon's *War Room* podcast, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) stated, "I believe that we have to have a discussion about raising the age of Social Security."

And right-wing site *The Daily Caller* was more honest than some in March, using the headline, "Despite The Establishment's Best Efforts, Some Republicans Want To Reform Entitlements."

Even if we make it through the immediate future without cuts to Social Security and Medicare, this recent behavior offers a warning that we cannot let our guard down. There is too much money at stake for some extremists to stop themselves from going after our earned benefits one more time, even if they have been advised not to admit it.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW. For more information, visit www.retiredamericans.org.

Alliance For Retired Americans Voting Record

Every year the Alliance publishes a Congressional Voting Record that scores every U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative on key retirement security issues.

The 2022 report considers 10 Senate and House floor votes, including votes on bills and amendments to provide additional funding for the Social Security Administration; lowering drug prices through the Inflation Reduction Act; protecting voting rights; and passing the Postal Service Reform Act, which was critical to retirees who often rely on the postal service for at-home delivery of medication and election ballots.

Download the national report or a state report by going to <https://retiredamericans.org/voting-record/>



“There are only four kinds of people in the world. Those who have been caregivers. Those who are currently caregivers. Those who will be caregivers, and those who will need a caregiver.”

Rosalyn Carter

Celebration of Seniors

Older Americans' Month Word Search

NEARING RETIREMENT? SOAR IS FOR YOU!



What is SOAR?

The Steelworker Organization of Active Retirees is a voice for Steelworker retirees, our spouses, and families. SOAR is how retirees stay connected to our union and where we continue the fight to protect and enhance the quality of life for retired and working families.

SOAR Members:

- ✓ Promote union values and help strengthen our communities
- ✓ Aid in our work to protect Social Security and Medicare
- ✓ Mentor future generations of union leaders
- ✓ Help guide and strengthen our union

UNITED STEELWORKERS
SOAR
 STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

How to join SOAR?

If you are age 45 or over, and an active USW member, retiree, union supporter, or spouse/surviving spouse, then join with us, we are stronger together!

Basic SOAR membership is only \$1 a month.

To join send a \$12 check or money order to:
 SOAR, 60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

The spouse or partner of a SOAR member can join at a basic annual dues rate of \$3.

You will receive a SOAR membership card, lapel pin and the SOAR publication, "SOAR in Action" which is also mailed to each SOAR member four times a year.

The USW Executive Board recommends your Local pay your SOAR dues for the first year.

For more information, contact the SOAR office.

Phone: 866-208-4420

VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.USW.ORG/SOAR

