



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

800 Troy Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 | 518-783-6231 | www.newyorkstateara.org

March 24, 2025

NYSARA Activists Do Their Thing This Week

NYSARA President Speaks at Social Security Rally in
White Plains

Video Clip of NYSARA President has Over 3.4 million
Views







On Saturday March 22 in front of the White Plains Social Security office that is slated to be closed by DOGE Social Security Works sponsored a rally in protest of all the actions the administration has taken that weaken social security and put people at risk. The current wave of staff cuts for the Social Security Administration combined with the edict that phone calls would not be accepted to do SS business, but that citizens had to either go online or come in person to an ever dwindling number of offices that often are 60 or more miles away from the citizens homes.

With a crowd of over four hundred that jammed the parking lot of the Social Security office and a stellar panel of speakers the crowd jeered the recent comments of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick a multi billionaire in a cabinet of multi billionaires saying "If social security didn't send out their checks his 94 year old mother-in-law wouldn't call and complain." She'd think something got messed up and she'll get it next month. A fraudster always makes the loudest noise, screaming, yelling and complaining." Lutnick said. Talk about clueless, the fact is that about 25% of Social Security recipients rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their family income while nearly half rely on it for at least 50%

Speakers included Alex Lawson, Executive Director of Social Security Works, US Representative George Latimer, AFGE President Everett Kelley, AFT President Randi Weingarten, Local AFGE Council 215 President Rich Couture, **NYSARA President Barry Kaufmann**, NYSUT At Large Director Florence McCue and NYS Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. Also in attendance were members of the NYS Senate and Assembly and local County and Village officials.

In his speech Kaufmann said "They claim there is massive fraud and benefits are being paid to the deceased and there are 2.4 million adults over the age of 100. (in fact according to the census there are approximately 100,000 over the age of 100) The fired IG of Social Security however said that Social Security fraud only accounted for about .9 of 1%. and if all the improper payments for the very old or deceased were cut it would extend the program for between 6 minutes and 12 hours." Kaufmann urged citizens to call on their Representatives in Government, Democrat, Republican and Independent to act. "If they truly support Social Security and care about Seniors now is the time to prove it by standing up to Musk and passing legislation that protects field offices, safeguards our data and ensures

transparency and accountability of the SSA. Social Security is OUR money, earned through a lifetime of work, and we have a right to know exactly what is being done with it."

To see the entire proceeding [click here](#)

**Dozens Gather Outside Congressman Nick
Langworthy's District #23 Office Including NYSARA
Board Member Jim Carr**



WHERE IS NICK?
AOL

Bring back
Kindness and
Compassion
they're more valuable than
eggs

E/ON Keep
Hands off
our
Social
Security
NO CUTS!!!!
Depart Musk

Dozens of people gathered outside of Congressman Nick Langworthy's district office in Corning today to protest his stances and speak with his staff to voice their concerns. Langworthy says this isn't the first time and it won't be the last.

Constituents of New York State's 23rd Congressional District gathered on Market Street in Corning outside of Langworthy's office as threats of eliminating Social Security, gutting Medicaid/Medicare, federal job cuts, and more are emerging from the Trump administration. Political signs could be seen and words of protest could be heard by people passing by.

"Democracy is we, the people," said Marita Florini, one of the protesters. "We the people do not support this illegitimate administration. So I am here to say we need democracy. We need to abide by our Constitution. And that is the most important thing for me and for my grand kids."

Florini says she is a retired nurse practitioner who traveled to Corning from Tioga County (NY) and is highly concerned about the future of healthcare. Because of this, she says she has called Langworthy's office nearly every day to negotiate potential solutions. However, she says between her attempts at communicating and attending the Congressman's telephone town hall sessions, she hasn't been able to get through.

"We need to sit down as a community and try to improve the quality in our community, and he is not doing that," said Florini.

When asked about the protests against lawmakers on the other side of the aisle, Langworthy added, "I've only seen a couple instances on cable news where Democrats were getting yelled at, at their town halls. I think it's actually from their own activists. I don't believe this is from the conservative wing of the party. We don't really have anything to protest about right now.

We won the election. President Trump won. We won the trifecta, the Senate and the House. We're governing and our activists are pretty pleased that we're getting the country going in the right direction."

Several protesters in Corning shared with WENY News that they were not being paid to attend the protest and say they just want to get through to their elected representative.

"So I'm a citizen," said Andy Patros, who lives in Chemung County and helped organize of the protest. "I assume all these people are here. They're constituents of the 23rd. They're not paid actors. They're not paid activists. We're just regular citizens that pay our taxes, and we're constituents of Nick Langworthy and the 23rd, and he represents us. So what we expect is communication, clarity, and information from the person that works for us, and that is Mr. Langworthy."

A large number of concerns were raised for things like local job cuts and, on a national level, the potential of federal Medicare cuts under the Trump administration. These are just a few of the points raised at the rally.

Congressman Langworthy, who says he openly backs many of President Trump's policies, shared with WENY News that these issues have been brought to his attention before and his message has remained the same.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there about what's going on with Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid on which President Trump has been clear and I've been clear, I don't support cuts to Medicaid, Social Security, or Medicare, period," said Langworthy. "End of story."

In the same realm, talks have been circulating in the region regarding the

Langworthy says the location was flagged by the Social Security Administration itself for under-utilization before DOGE even existed.

However, he adds that his office has also written to the administration to ensure the Big Flats facility is not being singled out. For those with additional Social Security concerns, he says the Corning location remains open for people to attend and you can still reach out to his office as well.

On Friday, people spoke to the Congressman's staff who took down notes and they sat in his office to write and leave letters.

"Everything that happens in Washington, everything that happens in Albany, affects people's lives," said Jim Carr, a protester and the statewide president for the Public Employees Federation (PEF) retirees and a NYSARA Board Member. "It affects the quality of food we eat, what's in it, it affects our benefits, our earned benefits, like Medicare and Social Security, it affects the air we breathe. When they roll back environmental regulations, it affects everything. And that's why I think it's important that individuals and groups advocate."

Central New York Chapter of NYSARA Rallies to Save Social Security and Transportation Security Workers



CNY chapter of NYSARA President, Bill Spreter (center) speaks about potential cuts to the social security workforce at an Area Labor Federation rally for SSA and TSA union workers at Syracuse City Hall on February 18. (Holding the flag is the ALF President, Ann Marie Taliercio. To her right is the Greater Syracuse Labor Council President, Mark Spadafore.) in back of President Spreter is Congressman John Mannion who rallies the 130 person crowd of AFL-CIO members and the general public to urge Republican representatives and the people to fight job cuts at SSA and TSA that could endanger the financial and physical well-being of the public.

Syracuse University Professor Eric Kingston Shares Social Security History, Threats to Existence and Ways to Fight Back



Eric Kingson, Syracuse University Professor of social work, shares the history of social security, the threats to its existence, and ways to fight back at the CNY chapter of NYSARA at its March meeting. Prior to this the chapter was invited to participate in a rally on behalf of SSA and TSA union workers in Syracuse. SSA union workers, with staffing at its lowest levels in ten years, are threatened with a layoff of 7,000 members. And, TSA union members' collective bargaining rights has been terminated.

Professor of Social Work at Syracuse University, Eric Kingson is an expert in social security and the politics and economics of the aging population.

Kingson is founding co-director of the Social Security Works (www.socialsecurity-works.org). Located at the national headquarters of the AFL-CIO, Social Security Works launched and staffs the Strengthen Social Security Coalition (co-chaired by Kingson), a coalition of over 300 national and state organizations dedicated to advancing economic security through strengthening and expanding our nation's Social Security policies and programs.

Judge Issues Temporary Restraining Order in Social Security Administration Lawsuit

Judge **Ellen Lipton Hollander**, the judge presiding over the Alliance's lawsuit against the Social Security Administration (SSA), [issued a temporary restraining order](#) Thursday restricting **Elon Musk** and the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) access to Americans' personal SSA data.

the group uninstall any new software they had installed as part of their efforts and that any data accessed outside of SSA be destroyed immediately.

Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, [praised](#) the judge's decision saying "we are grateful that the court took strong action to protect every American's personal data. Seniors must be able to trust the Social Security Administration will protect their personal information and keep it from falling into the wrong hands."

Social Security Administration Set to End Telephone Services for Claims, Forcing Millions to Process Claims in Person

The Social Security Administration is [moving forward](#) with [a plan](#) to terminate telephone services for all benefit claims. The change – [set to take](#)

[effect](#) on March 31 – will require millions of beneficiaries a year to either navigate an online-only system or go to field offices in person to complete the identity verification process for new claims.

[In a memo](#) sent last week, Acting SSA Deputy Commissioner **Doris Diaz** said the plan will result in longer wait and processing times and put an even bigger strain on the agency, which is already understaffed because of proposals from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the administration to reduce staff by 12 percent and shutter several field offices.

“Research consistently shows that many seniors and people with disabilities lack reliable internet access,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “This policy is unnecessarily cruel and will make it harder for seniors to receive the Social Security benefits they’ve earned over a lifetime of hard work.”

Take Action: Join Our “Save Social Security” Virtual Phone Bank Next Week



**STOP THE S
SAVE SOCIAL
V I R T
PHONE**

Concerned about attacks on Social Security and want to fight back? Next week, you will have the chance to do that from the comfort of your own home.

Join the Alliance for a virtual senior-to-senior phone bank on Thursday, March 27. Volunteers will call other seniors and share information about the so-called Department of Government Efficiency's efforts to dismantle the Social Security Administration and urge them to call their members of Congress.

"Don't worry if you haven't phone banked before, we'll have you covered with instructions on how to make your calls, and staff on hand to answer any questions and guide you through the process," said **Maureen Dunn**, Field Manager of the Alliance. "It's fun and easy and one of the most effective ways to make a difference."

Please [click here](#) to register for the phone bank.

Congress Extends Medicare Telehealth Services That Were Set to Expire

Congress recently [extended](#) Medicare telehealth services through September 30.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth services were generally [restricted](#) to patients with certain types of diagnoses and providers. During the pandemic telehealth was [made](#) available to all beneficiaries. Additionally, the American Relief Act of 2025, which Congress and President Biden signed into law in December 2024, [expanded](#) the types of practitioners that could provide telehealth services.

If telehealth benefits had ended this month, care would have become less accessible for millions of Medicare enrollees, especially people who live in rural areas or are disabled.

"It's good that Congress extended access to telehealth," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "We urge Congress to make

Medicare telehealth access permanent so older Americans can get the care they need quickly."