



# NRLN Review



## **NRLN Review, Summary for June 2026**

The NRLN Review provides a monthly report on National Retiree Legislative Network actions, events in Congress and important retirement news. The Review calls your attention to what the NRLN believes to be the month's very important articles for retirees, plus our comments. Headline links to articles posted on the [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org) homepage during the month are also included at the end of this Review.

### **NRLN Joins Letter Opposing Alternative Retirement Investments**

The NRLN joined 19 consumer, retiree, and worker advocacy organizations in a June 1, 2026, in a letter to the Assistant Secretary for Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). The letter expressed concern about EBSA's proposal on Fiduciary Duties in Selecting Designated Investment Alternatives for 401(k) plans. The alternative investments would include private equity, private credit, real estate, or cryptocurrency.

The letter pointed out that Congress enacted ERISA in 1974 with strict rules on the people who manage other people's retirement money for retirement and the EBSA proposal strays far from the protections of ERISA.

The letter's conclusion called for EBSA to withdraw its investment alternatives proposal and in its place take steps that genuinely improve retirement income security.

### **Proposed Social Security Commission Is Political Cover**

This article reports that in June 2026, Representatives Tom Cole (R-OK) and Tom Suozzi (D-NY) introduced the Social Security Commission Act. The act would create a bipartisan, independent commission to address Social Security's long-term financial solvency. Within a year of the commission's formation, the commission would be required to report to Congress, providing recommendations to ensure that the Social Security stays financially solvent long-term. The NRLN advocates Congress should not pawn off to a Commission which would meet behind closed doors to develop its recommendations to be fast-tracked in Congress with no amendments allowed. A Commission provides political cover for members of Congress. Instead of a Commission, current Congressional committees should step up to propose the recommendations. Committee members and the members of Congress who vote on the recommendations should be held accountable for any legislation on Social Security.

[New bipartisan bill proposed to plan major Social Security changes](#)

*FinanceBuzz Money – June 22*

### **Eliminate Wages Tax Cap for Social Security**

The first article reports that in the last few decades, incomes of higher-paid Americans have soared, far

outpacing those of low-and middle-class workers. That's become a problem for Social Security because the program only taxes annual earnings up to \$184,500 [in 2021], meaning it loses out on much of the faster income growth among top earners. The other article quotes Senators Bernie Moreno (OH) and Elizabeth Warren (MA): "Lifting the cap so that all income is treated the same would generate substantial revenue that would extend the solvency of Social Security for another generation," The NRLN advocates eliminating the wage cap of \$184,500 in 2026. The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of the Chief Actuary calculated that completely eliminating the taxable maximum would close about 70% of the shortfall and extend the OASI trust fund's life to about 2060. The tax should be reduced once funding is sufficient for the 75-year projected period.

#### [How growing inequality is worsening Social Security's financial crunch](#)

*CBS News – June 22*

#### [Sens. Moreno, Warren aim to address Social Security solvency solutions](#)

*Columbus Dispatch – June 23*

### **Traditional Medicare Trial “Is Not Going Smoothly Anywhere”**

The first article reports that the six-states (Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington), six-year trial for traditional Medicare prior authorization can lead to administrative hassles for medical providers, delays for patients, and, in some instances, denials of medically necessary services, according to a KFF Health News [report](#). "The pilot is not going smoothly anywhere," David Lipschutz, co-director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, told Yahoo Finance. "From what we've heard, it's frustrating both beneficiaries and providers in every state. This model appears to be importing some of the worst elements of Medicare Advantage."

That is happening in the state of Washington where patients are waiting up to three weeks and longer instead of days for authorization decisions, according to a [report](#) from Senator Maria Cantwell (WA).

The other article cites an Oklahoma case and notes that the trial's rollout has not been smooth. Patients, doctors, and other healthcare professionals who spoke with KFF say the effort has created confusion, errors, long wait times, and stress.

The NRLN has opposed the trial in which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has hired companies that use artificial intelligence to review requests for care. The program, known as the Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) model, requires additional approvals for a range of [procedures](#), including epidural steroid injections, treatments for spinal stenosis and knee osteoarthritis, and nerve stimulation for conditions such as tremors and Parkinson's disease.

#### [Medicare's prior authorization experiment is off to a rocky start](#)

*AOL – June 21*

#### [Medicare's AI push snarls patients and doctors in errors and delays](#)

*CBS News – June 23*

### **NRLN Opposes Raising the Full Retirement Age**

This article reported that Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) is pressing President Donald Trump to clarify whether his administration is considering raising the Social Security [full] retirement age. Warren argued that raising the retirement age would effectively reduce benefits for millions of Americans. Beginning in 2026, Social Security's full retirement age is 67 for people born in 1960 or later. Raising that threshold would force workers to wait longer to receive full benefits, while those claiming earlier would face steeper reductions. The other article points out the workers who could be hit the hardest. The NRLN opposes raising the full retirement age because it diminishes lifetime benefits. While some are willing and able to work more years, individuals who have worked in physically demanding jobs and/or have health issues may not be capable of extended years of work.

## [Elizabeth Warren warns Trump: Raising Social Security retirement age could cut benefits up to 35%](#)

*Benzinga – June 16*

## [Congress is considering this Social Security change - but it would hit these workers hardest](#)

*FinanceBuzz – June 29*

### **House Subcommittee Didn't Focus on Social Security Funding**

This article reported that one day [June 10] after federal trustees warned Congress that Social Security's retirement trust fund will go insolvent by [4th Quarte] 2032, a House subcommittee [on Social Security] met to question Social Security Commissioner Frank Bisignano about the program's future. Yet, lawmakers barely touched on ways to address the fund's depletion during the two-hour hearing. Instead, Democrats grilled Bisignano over local office closures and argued that benefits should be expanded, while Republicans praised Bisignano's efforts to improve customer service, payout efficiency and fraud prevention. Although subcommittee Chairman Ron Estes (KS-04) acknowledged [the fast-approaching insolvency deadline](#), his only proposed solution was to focus on preventing improper benefit payments. The NRLN supports closing funding gap through a modest increase (possibly between 0.5% and 1.5%) in the current payroll tax rate of 6.2% for employees and 6.2% for employers and eliminating the wage cap of \$184,500 in 2026. The tax should be reduced once funding is sufficient for the 75-year projected period.

### [U.S. lawmakers discuss Social Security, have no plan to prevent insolvency](#)

*The Center Square – June 10*

### **NRLN Legislative Committees' Work**

The NRLN's Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) prioritizes retirement-related bills it reviews during its twice-a-month conference calls. The LAC submitted the following bills for the Legislative Action Priorities Committee (LAPC) to consider for action. The LAPC took the actions below on the bills during its June 8 conference call. The work of the LAC and the LAPC provides the cornerstone for much of the dealings with members of Congress and their staff.

**H.R.6214/S.2730, Kidney Care Access Protection Act.** This bill would strengthen Medicare's kidney care benefits by ensuring fair reimbursement for quality care and improving patient access to innovative treatments, devices, and technologies:

The *Kidney Care Access Protection Act* would:

1. Establish a long-term, sustainable Medicare payment pathway for innovative drugs, devices, and technologies.
2. Implement a forecast error adjustment policy that accurately accounts for inflationary costs to help keep healthcare facilities financially viable.

On June 15, 2026, NRLN President emailed a letter to the Legislative Directors of the 54 members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce requesting that each Legislative Director ask their Representative to vote to pass out of Committee **H.R.6214, Kidney Care Access Protection Act**. Also, on June 15, 2026, NRLN President emailed a letter to the Legislative Directors of the 45 members of the House Committee on Ways and Means requesting that each Legislative Director ask their Representative to vote to pass out of Committee **H.R.6214, Kidney Care Access Protection Act**.

On June 15, 2026, NRLN President emailed a letter to the Legislative Directors of the 27 members of the Senate Committee on Finance requesting that each Legislative Director ask their Senator to vote to pass out of Committee **S.2730, Kidney Care Access Protection Act**.

### **Key News Articles Posted in June**

During June 77 links to news articles related to retirement issues were researched and posted IN THE NEWS on the NRLN website home page. The headlines below are links to the articles. Or read the articles at

[www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org) under IN THE NEWS in the right column. Scroll down the right column and click on the headline to access the article you want to read. Below are some of the headline links.

[\*\*A big Social Security rule change arrives by July 2026 – June 30\*\*](#)

[\*\*Gillibrand, others push to cap Medicare costs – June 30\*\*](#)

[\*\*Congress is considering this Social Security change - but it would hit these workers hardest – June 29\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare Advantage Quietly Drops Your Doctor Mid-Year. You're Locked In Until January. – June 29\*\*](#)

[\*\*How to see if you qualify for Medicare Part B premium assistance – June 29\*\*](#)

[\*\*Plagued by fraud: RFK Jr, Dr Oz say more than 1 million people without Social Security numbers enrolled in Obamacare – June 28\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare beneficiaries should know these prescription drug coverage changes in 2026 – June 28\*\*](#)

[\*\*How to save money on your Medicare prescription drugs – June 27\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare Part D in 2026: The prescription drug price changes you need to know now – June 27\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sell the house in retirement and Medicare bills you for it 24 months later - June 27\*\*](#)

[\*\*Poll: 96% want Senate candidates to address Social Security cuts – June 27\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare's \\$2,100 drug cap sounds great, but millions of seniors are being caught off guard by these gaps - June 25\*\*](#)

[\*\*JD Vance says he opposes cutting Social Security – here's what that means - June 25\*\*](#)

[\*\*Future of Social Security uncertain as senators disagree on possible remedies – June 25\*\*](#)

[\*\*Trump asks Congress for \\$1 billion to boost pensions of former GM parts company workers – June 25\*\*](#)

[\*\*Social Security is making a change to debit card used by millions— June 24\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sens. Moreno, Warren aim to address Social Security solvency solutions – June 23\*\*](#)

[\*\*GOP senator forced out by Trump pushes \\$1.5 trillion investment for Social Security – June 23\*\*](#)

[\*\*The FTC says clicking the first search result for Medicare can cost you money – June 23\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare's AI push snarls patients and doctors in errors and delays – June 23\*\*](#)

[\*\*Justice Department says hundreds charged for healthcare fraud – June 23\*\*](#)

[\*\*Judge says Trump can't use Social Security data for voter roll purges – June 22\*\*](#)

[\*\*New bipartisan bill proposed to plan major Social Security changes – June 22\*\*](#)

[\*\*How growing inequality is worsening Social Security's financial crunch – June 22\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare to Cover New Osteoporosis Diagnostic Screening Test – June 22\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare's Hospital Fund Now Runs Short in Early 2033 — a Quarter Sooner Than Last Year's Warning – June 22\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare's prior authorization experiment is off to a rocky start – June 21\*\*](#)

[\*\*A New Report Shows Costly Medicare Scams Are Spreading on Facebook – June 21\*\*](#)

[\*\*Your Medicare Advantage Plan Stops at the County Line. Original Medicare Doesn't – June 21\*\*](#)

[\*\*RFK Jr. Endorses 1.6 Million Immigrants per Year to Help Fix Social Security – June 20\*\*](#)

[\*\*Bernie Sanders vs. Elon Musk: Would Taxing the Rich Actually Save Social Security? – June 20\*\*](#)

[\*\*Switching to Medicare Advantage Is Easy. Switching Back Can Be Impossible – June 19\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare's New \\$2,100 Drug Cap Quietly Rewrites the Math on Costly Prescriptions – June 19\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare announced 5 major changes to coverage for 2027 — what Americans must know before things fundamentally shift – June 18\*\*](#)

[\*\*How Many Americans Wait for Full Retirement Age to Claim Social Security—and Why That Decision Affects Their Income - June 17\*\*](#)

[\*\*House Speaker Mike Johnson denies backing cuts to benefits amid Social Security shortfall warning – June 17\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Medicare crisis for insurers is over. The easy gains are too. – June 17\*\*](#)

[\*\*The new scams targeting Medicare recipients – here's what to watch for – June 17\*\*](#)

[\*\*Rural physicians are leaving Medicare faster than anyone is tracking – June 17\*\*](#)

[\*\*Ex-Social Security commissioner says rich should pay more into program – June 16\*\*](#)

[\*\*Elizabeth Warren warns Trump: Raising Social Security retirement age could cut benefits up to 35% – June 16\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare weight-loss drug coverage could overwhelm doctors – June 16\*\*](#)

[\*\*When One Spouse Dies, Medicare Quietly Doubles the Survivor's Premium – June 16\*\*](#)

[\*\*Social Security warning issued by senator over calls for major change – June 15\*\*](#)

[\*\*Social Security's looming insolvency sparks alarm in Congress – June 15\*\*](#)

[\*\*Medicare should pay docs more, cut nursing home and home health pay, MedPAC says – June 15\*\*](#)

[Medicare Brokers Are Steering Retirees Into Worse Plans for Bigger Commissions](#) – June 15  
[What happens to Social Security as more workers leave the US.?](#) – June 14  
[CMS proposes permanent framework for Medicare drug price negotiations](#) – June 12  
[Social Security update: Bipartisan bill proposed to plan major changes](#) – June 12  
[Social Security insolvency is ‘entirely solvable,’ says commissioner under Biden](#) – June 12  
[The Social Security crisis should be dominating the Senate campaign](#) – June 12  
[These private Medicare plans denied specialized care at highest rates](#) – June 11  
[Rep. Jason Smith: Congress must fix Social Security](#) – June 11  
[Sen. Rick Scott to Newsmax: Balance the budget, protect Social Security now](#) – June 11  
[What Republicans just said about Social Security and Medicare has retirees on edge](#) – June 11  
[Medicare program unable to pay full benefits in 7 years, report finds](#) – June 10  
[Who qualifies for Social Security disability insurance?](#) – June 10  
[Bisignano says Social Security Administration’s phone helpline wait times have reached a record low](#) – June 10  
[Four senior senators express alarm, push for ‘hard’ Social Security votes](#) – June 10  
[U.S. lawmakers discuss Social Security, have no plan to prevent insolvency](#) – June 10  
[A Message to The Public From The Social Security and Medicare Trustees](#) – June 9  
[Would You Trust the Government to Invest Your Social Security in Stocks?](#) – June 8  
[New Fed chair Kevin Warsh faces Trump demand with Social Security implications](#) – June 7  
[Social Security nearly marked 2.7M people as dead, whistleblower claims](#) – June 6  
[Elizabeth Warren Presses for Social Security Fixes That Could Impact Every Retiree](#) – June 6  
[Age 50+ Americans fuel \\$12.5 trillion economy, yet still feel financial pain](#) – June 4  
[10,000 boomers a day, \\$39 trillion in debt, and no benefit cuts: Bessent stakes Social Security on the Trump economy](#) – June 4  
[Social Security faces major delays after workforce cuts: What retirees need to know now](#) – June 4  
[Trump’s policies are pushing Social Security trust fund depletion to just 6 years away](#) – June 4  
[The hidden cost of Medicare: What retirees really pay each year](#) – June 4  
[Can joint bank accounts put your Social Security at risk?](#) – June 3  
[Medicare announced 5 major changes to coverage for 2027 — what Americans must know before things fundamentally shift](#) – June 3  
[Medicare Advantage Is Quietly Cutting One of Its Most Popular Perks for Seniors](#) – June 3  
[Social Security could see major changes under Republican proposal](#) – June 2  
[GLP-1 coverage under Medicare in 2026: What retirees should know about Ozempic and Wegovy](#) – June 1  
[New Social Security bill could boost benefits for family caregivers by thousands. Will you qualify?](#) – June 1

### **About the NRLN**

*Based in Washington, D.C., the National Retiree Legislative Network ([www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org)) is the only nationwide organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of retirees and future retirees. Formed in 2002, the NRLN’s endeavors to secure federal legislation to protect retirees’ employer-sponsored pensions and benefits in addition to keeping Social Security and Medicare strong. The NRLN is a non-partisan, grassroots advocacy coalition of retiree associations, chapters and individual members from 300 corporations and public entities who live in all 50 states and practically all Congressional districts. The NRLN represents more than 2 million retired men and women seeking to preserve the retirement benefits they earned during their many years of employment.*