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AARP Fights Cuts to Medicaid, Food Assistance

Proposed cuts to [Medicaid](#), food assistance and long-term care that could impact millions of low-income older adults are heading for a final vote in the House as AARP urged lawmakers to protect those programs.

Senate Republicans narrowly passed their version of President Trump's domestic spending and tax bill on Tuesday and House lawmakers will now consider the legislation.

The bill slashes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and health care for low-income people and people with disabilities and aims to dramatically reduce federal spending to deliver on the Trump administration's priorities, including an extension of the President's tax cuts.

eligibility requirements.

“This is a moment to strengthen — not weaken — the supports that help people stay in their homes, access needed health care and live with dignity and independence,” wrote Nancy LeaMond, AARP’s chief advocacy and engagement officer, in [the June 29 letter](#) to Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.). [Read more](#).

Here’s what you can do to help:

- [Email your lawmakers](#) and demand that they reject cuts to SNAP and Medicaid.
- [Sign up](#) to become an AARP activist for the latest news and alerts on issues you care about.
- [Find out more](#) about how we’re fighting for you every day in Congress and across the country.

If you have questions on advocacy issues, please contact Adam Goldberg, NRTA Senior Legislative Representative at agoldberg@aarp.org.



AARP Supports Tax Provisions For Older Americans

Tax provisions that could decrease taxes paid by older adults, allow for more caregiving leave and increase access to affordable housing are included in a budget bill heading for a final vote in the House.

The latest version of the spending bill narrowly passed the Senate on Tuesday after several hours of voting overnight on amendments, in time to meet President Trump’s July

breaks.

Some of the proposals passed by the Senate could help older adults who often grapple with increasing costs on everything from housing to prescription drugs. An increase in the additional senior standard deduction for those 65 and older, from \$1950 to \$6000, would help offset taxes that many older Americans pay on Social Security benefits. This senior bonus deduction would be in addition to the standard deduction available to all taxpayers.

“This increase delivers tax relief at a time when many older Americans are living on fixed incomes while facing rising costs,” wrote Nancy LeaMond, AARP’s executive vice president and chief advocacy and engagement officer in a June 29 [letter](#) to Senate leaders. [Read more.](#)

Here’s what you can do to help:

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Technology

Older adults overwhelmingly want to [stay in their homes](#) (75 percent) and communities (73 percent) as they age according to AARP's latest [Home and Community Preferences Survey](#). However, many older adults (44 percent) feel a move is inevitable.

But one way to support aging in place is technology. During the **Technology for Aging in Place** webinar, 50+ educators will learn how smart technology and artificial intelligence can make it easier stay in your home as you age.

Mark your calendars **Thursday, July 31 at 2 PM ET** to hear about home assistants, smart appliances, and wearables that can save you time and money. These technologies also can help manage health conditions and even provide greater peace of mind. The webinar also will cover also best practices for maintaining privacy and security when using this technology.

This webinar will be open to all retired educators and their friends/families, and we encourage Retired Educator Associations to invite your members and prospective members! These webinars will be a value add for your members and could even help attract new members to your REA. Watch your email for registration information and promotional content so you can easily share webinar information via email and social media.

Also mark your calendars for these additional upcoming technology webinars for 50+ educators:

- Thursday, September 4th at 2 PM ET on Smartphone Usage
- Thursday, October 2nd at 2 PM ET on Streaming and Smart TVs
- Thursday, December 4th at 2 PM ET on Social Media Digital Storytelling

These webinars are brought to you by NRTA and [Older Adults Technology Services](#) (OATS). Founded in 2004, OATS from AARP is a social impact organization with a mission to harness the power of technology to change the way we age. OATS empowers older adults with the tools and training necessary to take advantage of today's technology to enrich their lives. Through its flagship program, Senior Planet from AARP, OATS works closely with older adults to create extraordinary experiences in-person and online. [Read more about OATS](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Kenneally at kkenneally@aarp.org.



NRTA On The Road Supporting Retired Educator Associations

NRTA Director Al Campos recently was in Tennessee in support of the Memphis Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) Annual Health Fair. He gave a presentation to retired educators on [Social Security](#), a topic that is increasingly important to retirees in Tennessee and across the nation. AARP Tennessee also supported the MRTA event as a partner.

AARP Tennessee has a long and strong relationship with its local retired educators. For example, retired Memphis City Schools Principal Harold Beaver is a standout volunteer leader in the state and also serves on AARP Tennessee's Executive Council. The AARP Memphis volunteer team is fortunate to have so many active volunteers who are retired educators with passion, knowledge, energy, and commitment to their local community.

In addition, [Al Campos](#) traveled to Indiana to attend the Indiana Retired Teachers Association Annual Convention while [Adam Goldberg](#), NRTA Senior Legislative Representative, delivered an update to the [Illinois Retired Teachers Association](#) about key federal legislation impacting older Americans.

If you're interested in learning more about collaborating with your local AARP office and NRTA, [please let us know!](#)



NEW Public Pension Research

A new report from the National Institute on Retirement Security ([NIRS](#)) and [Aon](#), [Evolution and Growth: How Public Pension Plans Have Diversified Their Investments Amid Changing Markets](#), examines the changes public pension plan investing has undergone throughout the twenty-first century.

After decades of investing primarily in bonds and other fixed income assets, public pension plans have shifted to more diverse investment portfolios, which enabled these funds to grow, deliver reliable benefits, and withstand market turmoil during and after the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. The report finds:

- Public pensions have significantly diversified their portfolios.
- Plans have adopted the prudent investor rule throughout the twentieth century.
- Pension funds responded to significant changes in financial market conditions.
- The decade of ultra-low interest rates was a notable period of transition and change for public plan investments.
- More diverse pension plan portfolios have performed strongly in recent years.

This report can serve as a tool to educate retired educators about their retirement plans, as well as a resource for educating state and local policymakers about your pension plan.

We invite you to [download](#) the research, [watch a webinar](#) about the report, and [read a press release](#) summarizing the report.



Key Resources for Educators

We know educators across the country face a number of key issues and have a wide variety of interests. We invite you to access the wealth of resources from AARP and NRTA for educators:

[AARP's Fraud Watch Network Helpline](#) is a free resource with trained fraud specialists and volunteers fielding thousands of calls each month. 50+ educators can get trusted guidance on scams free of judgment.

[Today's Tips](#) podcast shares the latest tips and tricks to help strengthen your health, money and happiness — all in less than 5 minutes.

[The Game Center](#) is the place for fun with free online games like Mahjongg, bridge, word search, and crosswords.

Questions

As always, the NRTA Team is available to answer your questions or provide counsel on issues. Below is our contact information:

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