

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: January 25, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Advocates Rush to Defend Health Law's Endangered CLASS Act

Julian Pecquet

January 25, 2012

The Hill

On Tuesday The AFL-CIO and the Alliance for Retired Americans wrote to lawmakers in the House urging them not to repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act portion of the health care law. The act was previously suspended by the Obama administration because it would have led to unaffordable premiums if implemented in the present day. Currently, the CLASS Act faces a repeal from the Republican controlled House, prompting responses in its defense by the AFL-CIO and ARA. The groups contend that the bill can be fixed instead of scrapped altogether.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/206431-advocates-rush-to-defend-health-laws-endangered-class-act>

Social Security

How to Fix Social Security Confounds Fla. Retirees

Brendan Farrington

January 25, 2012

Boston Globe

Farrington provides an inside look into the minds of many retirees residing in Florida on how to fix Social Security. There is no clear-cut winner in terms of candidate positions, including the current Obama administration. Several responses from Florida retirees, where the second largest retiree population resides (behind California), provides a window into the confounded perspective that covers the state mere days before the January 31 GOP primary.

http://www.boston.com/news/politics/articles/2012/01/25/how_to_fix_social_security_confounds_fl_a_retirees/

Economy

Barack Obama Is Right – Wealth Inequality Is A threat to Capitalism

Jonathan Kay

January 25, 2012

National Post

Kay pens an opinion piece explaining just how wide the income disparity gap between social classes has become and the denial many Republican politicians display in its regard. He also

explores the many misconceptions that the American public believes about the income gap, especially those among the working poor.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/01/25/jonathan-kay-barack-obama-is-right-wealth-inequality-is-a-threat-to-capitalism/>

Politics

State of the Union 2012: Obama Speech Full Text
January 24, 2012
National Post

Here is a full transcript of President Obama's 2012 State of the Union Address. Within the speech, Obama proposes policies that will help boost the nation's economy and reclaim American values.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/01/24/state-of-the-union-address-full-text/>

Public Pensions Are Not the Problem
Mario Cilento
January 25, 2012
New York Daily News

Democratic New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed budget looks to shrink public pensions even more. The new pension tier advocates an optional 401(k) and obliterates the presently defined benefit plan, cutting payouts and making employee contributions more unaffordable. In essence, this plan will require employees to work longer, pay up to double in employee contributions and pay more in the event of a stock market crash while yielding less in their pension. Cilento, state president of the NY AFL-CIO explains how these proposed cuts will not allow for workers to lead sustained and enjoyable lives and instead provides more of a challenge to retirement security.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/public-pensions-enemy-article-1.1011290?localLinksEnabled=false>

Labor

A Super Bowl of Workers' Struggle?
David Zirin
January 25, 2012
Toward Freedom

Nearly two weeks before Super Bowl XLVI (46) takes place in Indianapolis, The NFL Players Association has officially issued a statement in opposition of the current "right-to-work" laws that are up for legislation in Indiana. Union struggles for workers' rights are still very fresh for NFLPA, having just emerged from a labor battle all its own in late 2011. In an interview with

Zirin, NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith says that the union is in “lock-step with organized labor” on this issue, receiving support from various players including Rex Grossman, Jeff George, and Tim Tebow. In addition to his work in NFLPA, Smith also sits on the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

<http://www.towardfreedom.com/home/global-news/2693-a-super-bowl-of-workers-struggle>

Local Groups to Rally at Sen. Evers’ Office
Jamie Page
January 25, 2012
Pensacola News Journal

The Florida AFL-CIO is sponsoring a rally outside of Senator Greg Evers’ local office on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 4pm. The protest is in opposition of Sen. Bill 2036, which would delay vital information on private vendor contracts, making it difficult for Floridians to track if private contractors are doing the jobs they’re getting paid to do. The FL AFL-CIO says that this is a legislative effort to “keep privatization efforts in the dark” while allowing contractors to reap large profits from taxpayers.

<http://www.pnj.com/article/20120125/NEWS01/120125004/Local-group-rally-Sen-Evers-office?odyssey=nav|head>

Gov. Haley Talks More Smack To Unions
Free Times Writers
January 25, 2012
Columbia’s Free-Times

South Carolina GOP Governor Nikki Haley signed an executive order on January 24 that denies unemployment benefits to striking workers. In addition, workers will also have to disclose financial information. SC state AFL-CIO president Donna DeWitt claims that the latest move by Gov. Haley is a political stunt and a “desperate attempt to distract attention from her support of Mitt Romney.”

http://www.free-times.com/index.php?cat=11002508102222227&ShowArticle_ID=12302501123252006

Governor to Hold Retiree, Taxpayer Electronic Town Hall
GoLocalProv News Team
January 24, 2012

Independent Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee will invite 8,200 retirees and taxpayers to an online town hall meeting taking place Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 5pm. Invitees will receive their notice during the morning or afternoon of January 25. For those not invited, participation is still strongly encouraged by contributing questions, comments, and suggestions to the Governor. The website and email information can be found in the article.

<http://www.golocalprov.com/news/new-governor-to-hold-retiree-taxpayer-electronic-town-hall/>