



Retired News

Information for FEA Retired Members

March 2026

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1. Child Care for Working Families Act. The Child Care Worker Fairness Act is a proposed piece of legislation aimed at improving the working conditions and compensation for child care workers across the United States. Over 20% of educators have to work either a second job or during the summer to make ends meet. This bill in the Senate would help in the following ways:

- **Wage Increases:** The act seeks to raise the minimum wage for child care workers, ensuring they receive fair compensation for their essential services.
- **Benefits and Support:** It includes provisions for better benefits, such as health insurance and retirement plans, to attract and retain qualified professionals in the field.
- **Training and Development:** The legislation emphasizes the importance of professional development, providing funding for training programs to enhance the skills of child care workers.

If you feel this legislation is important, contact your Senator at <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

2. Leaks in Social Security. Last week, Reps. John Larson, D-CT, and Richard Neal, D-MA, called for a criminal investigation within the Social Security Administration (SSA) after two staff members with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) had improperly accessed and shared Americans' sensitive personal data. While the SSA claims only 1,000 people had their information leaked, it's expected that the actual number is well into the millions. Due to this incident and the nature of the personal information breach, retirees should be extra vigilant about potential scam risks, especially those with cognitive or memory impairments. (National Active and Retire Federal Employees, February 10, 2026)

3. Cost of Living . The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to civil service annuities for 2026, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased by 0.3 percent in January 2026. The CPI-W figure for January 2026 was 0.21 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2025. Each year's COLA is determined by comparing the change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from year to year, based on the average of the third- quarter months of July, August, and September.

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and Social Security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

4. Keeping Our Schools Safe for Children. Currently Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) launched assaults on the sacred spaces where people worship, in schools by sending in agents using personnel and drones to follow students into schools, and patients who are seeking care for themselves and children in hospitals. NEA is urging members to contact their senators and representative to co-sponsor the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455/H.R. 1061) to protect clergy, educators and health care workers along with the families and children they serve. Visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/make-schools-churches-and-hospitals-protected-spaces-ice> to make your voice heard.

5. Oscar Short—A Humorous-Animated Look at Retirement. The Academy Awards will be shown on the ABC network on March 15. One of the Oscar nominated Short Animated films (it's less than 8 minutes) is a very humorous look at retirement called Retirement Plan. You can view (and perhaps empathize) with this very clever cartoon before the ceremonies at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Mqa4zfJdx4>



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