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To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
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Subject: Justice in Aging Supports Introduction of SSI Restoration Act into Congress

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## Justice in Aging Supports Introduction of SSI Restoration Act into Congress

Can you imagine trying to stretch a monthly budget of \$733 to meet all your basic needs? That's the reality for millions of poor older adults and people with disabilities who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to cover rent, food, utilities, clothes, transportation to doctor appointments, and... (the list goes on). But it doesn't have to be this way and maybe it won't

always be. On May 19, a committed and passionate group of legislators introduced a bill that would alleviate [senior poverty](#) and help millions of SSI recipients. [The SSI Restoration Act of 2015](#) will make important changes in the program's income and asset limits to better reflect the challenges facing today's seniors. Justice in Aging worked hard to develop and promote this legislation and we are thankful to the many members of Congress who have rallied to support poor seniors. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), with co-sponsors Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Bob Casey (D-PA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Mazie Hirono (D-HI), introduced S.1387 in the Senate; and Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), [along with 25 House co-sponsors](#), introduced an identical bill, H.R. 2442, in the House. For more, [check out our blog](#), The Arizona Republic's take on [Rep. Grijalva's support of SSI Restoration](#), and [#RestoreSSI](#).

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## Held v. Colvin Update: an Early Step in the Right Direction

In March, Justice in Aging—along with [GLAD](#) (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders), and [Foley Hoag LLP](#)—filed a class action lawsuit, *Held v. Colvin*, to stop the SSA from collecting overpayments from elderly and disabled recipients of SSI who were married to someone of the same sex in or before June 2013. The suit charges that SSA discriminated against these individuals for months (and in some cases more than a year), by failing to recognize their marriages even after they'd informed the agency of their status. **After the lawsuit was filed, SSA issued an emergency order telling field offices to stop issuing any new overpayment notices to SSI recipients married to a person of the same sex.** Read more about our [high-impact litigation](#) and our work on [economic security](#) for low-income older Americans.

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## Celebrating Older Americans Month by Fighting Senior Poverty

At Justice in Aging every month is [Older Americans Month](#), but we celebrated extra heartily in May by raising awareness of senior poverty and ways to fight it. We reached new audiences with a blog series for younger generations on topics in aging. In case you missed them, check out [Six Things Millennials Need to Know About Aging](#), the [Sandwich Generation Celebrates the OAA](#), and [Five Actions for a Better 2050](#). The Huffington Post featured Kevin's [blog](#) calling on Americans to fight senior poverty by urging Congress to reauthorize the OAA ([Older Americans Act](#)) and [support SSI Restoration](#). Justice in Aging will be continuing to highlight issues of senior poverty through our participation in various events leading up to the [2015 White House Conference on Aging](#). Follow [#WHCOA](#) and [@WHAGing](#) for news and updates.

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## ASA releases special edition of *Generations*: "Medicare at 50 Years"

For those of you in DC, we invite you to attend a special event in D.C. on Monday, June 15, for the roll out of the Summer 2015 issue of *Generations*, "Medicare at 50 Years." The issue—guest edited by **John Rother**, president/CEO, National Coalition on Health Care and **Tricia Neuman**, a senior vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation and director of the Foundation's Program on Medicare Policy—is a wide-ranging look at Medicare, including reflections on the program's launch, how well it's working, and the main challenges it faces. The issue includes an article featuring Kevin Prindiville discussing the important role Medicare plays for low-income older adults. The event will have a panel briefing and audience engagement session of the past, present (in its 50th anniversary year), and future of Medicare, corresponding with the issue's focus. [You can RSVP for the event here.](#)

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