



THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

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Congressman Katko is Missing the Target

In his effort to tout the alleged benefits, short term though they may be, of the Trump Tax Plan for New Yorkers, Congressman Katko recently missed the target by having his picture taken standing with Target employees and claiming the employee raises were due to the Trump Tax.

Now, to be sure, the Congressman was told that the tweet was false. According to CNBC and CNN reporting, and press releases by Target, the retailer announced on September 25, 2017, a full two months before the Tax plan, that they would raise their minimum wage from \$11 to \$12 per hour and committed to a \$15 per hour wage by 2020. In fact, the state and national AFL-CIO, including our union, made a concerted push for increased wages in the "Fight for Fifteen" campaign. We were successful with the Governor passing the state minimum wage increases.

To be fair, the congressman has since modified his claim in light of Target's own announcement in September of 2017. We hope facts matter to the Congressman when voting on laws that affect his constituents in Central New York.

At this point I would like to share with him another set of facts, facts that apply to one segment of his constituency, seniors and middle income Americans...in light of his support for the Trump Tax plan: Congressman Katko's support of the Trump tax to the rich and corporations means

- 13 million Americans lose health insurance, 18,000 in his district by 2025.
- Thousands of New Yorkers have their tax deductions limited. New Yorkers have 73 billion in these deductions that would be lost. There are 98,000 filers of State and local tax deductions in the 24th Congressional district.
- The national deficit increases by 1.5 trillion, requiring \$473 billion in cuts Medicare and over 1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid.

The bottom line is that the tax plan gives middle class taxpayers a minor and temporary boost and gives corporations permanent cuts while programs such as social security, Medicare and Medicaid that seniors depend on, could be slashed. It may not be next year, but it will come.

Facts should matter to our Congressman, even the fact that he missed the target on Target. Their pay increases, welcome as they are, and deserving of praise, did not come about by the Trump tax plan. They came about, in part, by a concerted labor-led campaign for higher wages.

The improving economic climate under the previous national administration aided that Target announcement but more importantly, the "Fight for 15" that many of us engaged in made it happen. We changed the conversation.

Congressman Katko could change the conversation. For instance, support a national minimum wage increase. Support unions to grow the middle class. Say no to cuts in social security, Medicare, Medicaid, the social safety net, not only for seniors but for future generations. Have real town halls and in the future, get your Target right.

Updated late alert: President Trump and congressional Republicans are considering forcing votes to cut billions in spending that would cancel parts of the bipartisan appropriation measures that averted a government shutdown. These potential cuts could harm senior programs. At the same time the Republicans are pushing a Balanced Budget Amendment that, if approved, "would be terrible for Medicare, Medicaid, as well as social security, said Joseph Peters, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

~Bill Spreter, RC 7 2nd VP, also serves as a co-chair of CNY ARA and is the Regional VOTE-COPE Coordinator

RC 7 TRIP TO CAPE COD, MARTHA'S VINEYARD

JUNE 4 - 7, 2018

Three Nights Hotel, Three Breakfasts, Two Dinners, Visits to Two Museums, Harbor Cruise, Ferry Ride, Tour of Hyannis and Sandwich, and Time to Shop!

Cost between \$575 - \$1085 based on participants and room type.
Deposit of \$150 due by May 1st.

For More Info, Contact **Kathy LaRocca** at 315-466-9463 or **Bella Tours**
bellatours.travel@gmail.com 315-652-0121

*****Next Trip - Burlington, VT October 10 - 13, 2018*****

2017 - 18 MEETINGS

May 15 - Springside Inn, Auburn

June 19 - Lodge @ Welch-Allyn,
Skaneateles

See reservation forms on page 3

From the President's Desk...

Loretta K. Donlon

Keep it Active!

Active retirees lobbying the members of the House of Representatives is the reason you won't have your current Social Security check cut before the year is over! We need to keep active all the time in this political climate. If you haven't already done so, remember to join the NYS ARA and sign up for weekly alerts. The CNY Chapter meets each month on the 2nd Friday at 10:00-12:00 at the NYSUT Syracuse Office. Join Us!!

The following is taken from a recent ARA Monday Alert.

Balanced Budget Amendment Fails in House

A balanced budget constitutional amendment failed in the House on Thursday. A two-thirds majority was needed for passage, and the vote was 233-184.

"We are grateful to the 6,000 Alliance members who responded when we asked them to send an email to their House member urging a NO vote," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Proposals that would cut our earned benefits are coming fast and furious, and we need to be ready to respond quickly to beat them back."

If the measure had passed, it would have a dramatic impact on the nation's economy. Of concern to retirees, the Social Security Administration would be prohibited from using its trust fund reserves to pay current beneficiaries. That means the amount paid in any given year would have to come from the payroll taxes collected in that year. If there was a shortfall, it would result in benefit cuts for beneficiaries.

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Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RC 7 & RC 8
May 21, 2018
Doubletree, East Syracuse
Registrations forms were mailed - send in yours today!



We Remember Fondly ...

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Earl Cornacchio
Terry James Dillon
Judi Flanagan
Edith Roberts
Elma Sampine

Fayetteville-Manlius

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Onondaga Central

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Marcellus

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Liverpool

Janet Campbell
Janet Canham
Anthony Lizio
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Rosemary Sardo

OCC

Richard Lombardo

Jordan-Elbridge

Shirley English + OCC
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Weedsport

Thomas Samere

Skaneateles

Lois Johns

Jamesville-Dewitt

Susan Parker + Syr

Westhill

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LaFayette

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Marjory Schuster

- o RC 7 Director
- o NYSUT Delegate
- o Travel Committee Chair
- o Luncheon Coordinator
- o STARS Secretary
- o Friend Extraordinaire

Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on "**Culturally-Responsive Teaching**" for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit <http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice>.

Previous editions of this publication are available at [https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice](https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/educators-voice).



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar./Apr. '18

- ❖ 5/15 @ Springside Inn, Auburn
- ❖ 6/19 @ Welch Allyn Lodge, Skaneateles