AFSCME Retirees worked tirelessly to halt the legislation and their activism paid off.

AFSCME Retirees Sub-chapter 85 of Centralia

Retiree activism helps save ACA

On Friday, March 25, Congress pulled the bill repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) moments before it was scheduled for a vote.

AFSCME Retirees across the state have been calling legislative offices and participating in actions to stop the repeal and replacement of the ACA. Repeal of the health care law initiated the ACA moments before its scheduled for a vote. Congress pulled the bill repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) moments before it was scheduled for a vote.

On Friday, March 25, Congress pulled the bill repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) moments before it was scheduled for a vote.

AFSCME Retirees Sub-chapter 74 of Rockford

By President Barack Obama

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Repeal

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AFSCME Retirees Sub-chapter 163 President Clyde Wilson. “We identify with ‘People Power’ and we’re a force that has to be dealt with.”

Pension-cutting bills

The General Assembly is once again crafting legislation that will cut pensions. Under pressure from Gov. Bruce Rauner, Democratic and Republican leadership in the Illinois Senate tried to push through legislation that would cut the pensions of working employees in the SERS, SURS and TRS pension systems. The governor is refusing to agree to work toward resolving the state’s budget stalemate unless pensions are cut.

Senate Bill 16 would cut the pensions of active employ ees, and includes a plan to try to push employees out of the pension system and into 401(k)s. That would undermine the financial integrity of our state’s already severely underfunded pension systems. SB 16 failed on the Senate floor on February 28 by a vote of 26-27-2 and was put on postponed consideration. It is likely to be considered again.

AFSCME, along with the We are One Coalition, is committed to fighting harmful pension legislation.

Stay remains

The Illinois Supreme Court denied the Rauner administration’s request for direct appeal of the dispute as to whether AFSCME and the administration were at impasse when Rauner walked away from contract negotiations more than a year ago.

The Supreme Court’s ruling means that the stay issued by the Fourth District Appel late Court will remain in place while the case is heard. “This ruling is very exciting for AFSCME Retirees,” said Liam McDonnell, member of Sub-chapter 86.

“Now Rauner can’t impose harmful cuts to retiree health care, like removing language that sets premium benefit lev els and doubles premiums for non-Medicare eligible dependents.”

One dangerous budget

On March 16, President Trump released his proposed federal budget which includes crippling cuts to programs of vital importance to seniors.

Cuts in the Budget Proposal include:

• Meals on Wheels: Last year Meals on Wheels served 2.4 million Americans. The program provides meals to seniors who are not easily able to shop or cook for themselves. Meals on Wheels receive 33 percent of its funding through the Older Americans Act, which is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Trump’s budget would slash the Department of Health and Human Services budget by 17 percent, jeopardizing this and other vital programs.

• Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Trump’s budget would eliminate LIHEAP, a program that provides short term financial assistance to 6.7 million seniors struggling to pay cooling and heating bills. AFSCME will continue to fight for programs that protect seniors and against budgets that would undermine their financial security.