TSC Pushes for Lock Box Legislation on Capitol Hill

The Seniors Coalition’s Director of Membership Services, Sean Ferritor, recently visited Capitol Hill to push for Social Security Lock Box legislation long promoted by TSC.

“Protecting Social Security from more raids by Congress is crucial to saving that program for both current and future generations,” Ferritor says. “So far we have collected 958,173 signed petitions supporting the Social Security Lock Box.”

Ferritor first visited the office of Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to discuss S.123, the Social Security Lock Box bill that TSC has been supporting in the U.S. Senate for several years. Vitter has been the bill’s principal sponsor in both the 111th Congress and the current 112th Congress.

Next, Ferritor visited the offices of U.S. Representatives Aaron Schock (IL-18), Pat Tiberi (OH-12), and Lloyd Doggett (TX-25), to discuss H.R. 219, the current House version of the Lock Box legislation that TSC has been supporting for more than a decade. Schock, Tiberi, and Doggett are all members of the Subcommittee on Social Security for the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means.

“H.R. 219 was referred to the Ways and Means committee and we are pushing for a hearing on it,” Ferritor says. “I had some good

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Bridges Issues Million Petition Signers Challenge

The Seniors Coalition’s President and CEO, Dr. Joseph Bridges, is challenging the organization’s staff and supporters to collect a least one million petition signers for three different grassroots campaigns over the next six months.

“I want to have collected and delivered one million petitions demanding CoLA reform, one million protesting extending Social Security to illegal aliens, and one million supporting a Social Security lock box. And I want to do it within the next six months,” says Bridges. “America’s seniors are rightfully angry and these three issues will be huge in 2012. With a lot of hard work and grassroots help, I know we can do it.”

All three issues are considered to be at the top of TSC’s 2012 agenda and petition campaigns related to each one have been gen-

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Coalition Board Lays Out Strategy for 2012

The Board of Directors of The Seniors Coalition recently held its annual meeting to review the organization’s annual independent audit and charter an ambitious course for the organization in 2012.

At the meeting, the board approved plans to try to collect one million signatures on petitions concerning TSC’s three most important issues: the Social Security Lockbox; stop payment of Social Security benefits to illegal immigrants from Mexico; and CoLA reform.

The board also agreed that TSC’s 2012 Membership Drive is probably the most important campaign in the organization’s history. “The board feels that our nation has reached the point of crisis and the senior citizens need to stand up now more than ever and be heard,” says Dr. Joseph Bridges, TSC’s President and CEO. “That means we need to renew all our past members and add many, many more. Our membership is where our political clout comes from.”

At the meeting the board also approved the 2010 audit of TSC’s finances that was conducted by a completely independent Certified Public Accountant and then reviewed by a second independent CPA. The audit received an “unqualified” opinion from both auditors which means the organization received a clean financial bill of health. TSC’s 2010 IRS form 990 — which is effectively the organization’s tax return — reports that 78% of all funds spent by the Coalition were allocated to the group’s mission, namely lobbying and public education. Only 7.5% of the expenses were allocated to administration and just 15% went toward fundraising.

“We’re proud of how we manage The Seniors Coalition’s finances,” explains Bridges. “We recognize our donors and supporters make a sacrifice when contributing to TSC, so we try to be as frugal as possible.”

As an example of the Coalition’s frugality, Bridges points out that this year’s annual meeting was conducted by conference call instead of in person. “With the economy being in such bad shape, we didn’t think it was appropriate to pay to fly people in from around the country and pay for meals and hotel rooms using our members’ money,” he explains. “Technology today is so sophisticated the board can get together for long meetings at almost any time without the cost of travel.”

Seniors’ Sense • Seniors’ Sense • Seniors’ Sense • Seniors’ Sense

Dear Friend,

I don’t know about you, but this “Occupy Wall Street” protest nonsense has made me pretty angry.

I certainly agree that everyone has a right to protest and I am keenly aware of how bad the American economy is. However, these kids sleeping in tents and banging on drums in a park just yards from Ground Zero, are a bunch of whiners who simply want a handout.

When was the last time a large group of American senior citizens threw a public tantrum like this? America’s seniors suffered through the depression. We fought and won World War II and the Cold War. We’ve survived civil strife, natural disasters and more economic recessions than I can count.

And despite all this hardship, we’ve worked hard, saved our money, paid our bills and hardly ever complained about our lots in life.

These “protesters” say that they want someone else to pay off their student loans and to give them a guaranteed income for life if they don’t want to work! How ridiculous.

These kids who are “occupying” the financial district of New York need to grow up, take responsibility for themselves, take the best job they can find, and work their very hardest make something of themselves. Just like our generation did!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
TSC Pushes for Lock Box Legislation on Capitol Hill

discussions about how important this bill is, but it is still hard to get Congress to move on it.” Schock and Tiberi are Republicans, and Doggett is a Democrat.

Legislation to protect the Social Security Trust Fund has evolved over the last 15 years, and both Democrats and Republicans have supported different versions of a “Lock Box” bill at various times.

In 2000, during the 107th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives actually passed a Lock Box bill by a lopsided margin of 407 to 2, nearly unanimous. However, that same year, the U.S. Senate refused to take any action. “The failure of the U.S. Senate to follow the lead of the House that year was an extreme disappointment,” explains Senior Coalition President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “It was yet another example of how the politicians have played politics with Social Security over the years.”

The Senior Coalition is determined to keep pressing the issue with its 15-year old petition drive now focused on S.123 in the Senate and H.R. 219 in the House, but more senior citizens must get involved to pass this legislation.

TSC began collecting signatures supporting lock box legislation in 1996 and has so far collected 958,173 signed petitions but wants to get to at least 1,000,000. “This is a critical issue for not just senior citizens, but for everyone who has paid money into the Social Security system. We need to protect the Trust Fund from the politicians and the only way to do that is through Lock Box legislation,” Ferritor says.

Bridges Issues Million Petition Signers Challenge

erating huge numbers of signed petitions. “CoLA reform is a really big deal right now,” says Sean Ferritor, TSC’s Director of Membership Services. “We are getting lots of phone calls on the issue and we are delivering lots of petitions to Capitol Hill. However, anything having to do with Social Security is a big deal to TSC members as well. I think we can reach the one million petition mark for each of these issues.”

Campaigns supporting lock box legislation and opposing the Mexican-American “totalization” agreement, which would extend Social Security benefits to illegals, are long-running campaigns that are very close to approaching the one million signers mark. CoLA reform, Bridges says, is a slightly newer issue that has become overwhelmingly important to senior citizens with inflation rising and CoLAs being cancelled for the past two years. “Senior citizens are suffering and this CoLA mess needs to be fixed immediately,” Bridges says. “That’s why we need at least one million petitions. America’s seniors need to be heard.”

To participate in the petition challenge effort, TSC supporters can visit the Coalition’s website at www.senior.org and sign one, or all, of these petitions online.

Benefits Focus: Save Big with the Prescription Discount Card

The Seniors Coalition and Prescription Discount Club are helping TSC members save up to 20% on brand name drugs and 70% on Generic drugs. (Average savings is 15% on brand names and 50% on generics). All prescription drugs are included in the program and membership is free to TSC Members. Visit www.senior.org or call (202) 261-3594 for more information.
We Need Your Stories!
How have President Obama’s cuts to Medicare affected you? We would like to reprint some of the stories our members have about the recent changes to Medicare. Has your favorite doctor dropped seeing Medicare patients? Has Medicare’s customer service gotten worse? Write us with your thoughts and stories at:

THE SENIORS COALITION
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Pending Bills Before Congress of Concern to Senior Citizens

- **Social Security Lock Box** (S. 123 & H.R. 219) This bill is “in committee.” TSC is collecting petitions and making personal visits lobbying in favor of this bill. Efforts in support of this measure are part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.

- **Death Tax Repeal** (H.R. 177) This bill is “in committee.” TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “AYE.”

- **Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2011** (H.R. 776) This bill is “in committee.” TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “AYE.”

- **CPI for Seniors Act of 2011** (H.R. 1086) This bill is “in committee.” TSC is collecting petitions in favor of CoLA reform of which this bill is a part. Efforts in support of this measure are part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.

- **No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act of 2011** (H.R. 787) This bill is “in committee.” TSC is collecting petitions in favor of this bill as part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.

- **Stop Online Piracy Act** (H.R. 3261) This bill is being “marked up” in committee. It will allow the government to shut down websites without due process. TSC OPPOSES this measure and urges all its supporters to urge their Representatives to vote NO.

- **Social Security Totalization Agreement Reform Act of 2011** (S. 181) This bill is “in committee.” It restricts the President’s ability to get the U.S.-Mexico Totalization agreement ratified. That agreement would allow illegal immigrants to receive Social Security benefits. TSC urges its members to contact their U.S. Senators and urge them to vote “NO.”

**N=TSC opposes Y=TSC supports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Choices for Seniors Act (H.R. 107)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 98)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act (H.R. 149)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating Sunshine, Participation, and Accountability for Our Nation Act (HR. 1432)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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Help The Seniors Coalition Protect You and Your Rights!
The Seniors Coalition depends exclusively on voluntary membership dues and contributions from the general public to represent America’s senior citizens in Washington. If you would like to help our efforts please clip and return this coupon with any contribution you can afford.

☐ YES! I would like to help The Seniors Coalition keep fighting to protect senior citizens.
Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ $10  ☐ $15  ☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ Other $________

Because we lobby Congress on your behalf, contributions are not tax-deductible.
Please send your contribution along with this form to:

The Seniors Coalition
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________

Please make your check payable to “TSC.”