The Official Newsletter of The Seniors Coalition
January 2012 Volume XXIII Issue 1

TSC Celebrates Berwick’s Defeat, Sets Sights On Tavenner Nomination

The Seniors Coalition is claiming victory now that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Chief Donald Berwick has decided not to seek Senate confirmation, and will, therefore, be leaving his position. Now TSC is turning its attention to fighting the nomination of his successor.

Berwick, a controversial supporter of health care rationing, was appointed by President Obama by means of a recess appointment, which did not require Senate confirmation. The appointment expired in December, however, and the odds that Berwick could be confirmed by the Senate were longer than ever thanks in part to nonstop pressure by The Seniors Coalition.

In his place, President Barack Obama has nominated Berwick’s former deputy, Marilyn Tavenner, who is also a die-hard supporter of government-run healthcare.

“Mrs. Tavenner is no better than Donald Berwick,” warns TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “While in her current post, she has been an enthusiastic backer of Obamacare and rationing health care."

Rep. Andy Harris Signs on to Death Tax Repeal Bill

After meeting with The Seniors Coalition’s Director of Member Services, Sean Ferritor, on December 8, U.S. Representative Andy Harris (R-MD) agreed to cosponsor H.R. 177, the Death Tax Repeal Bill.

“This is great news,” says Ferritor. “Congressman Harris is a true friend to senior citizens and a tireless advocate for America’s taxpayers. It was great to meet him and to have the opportunity to talk with him about TSC and our members’ concerns.”

At the Congressman’s invitation, Ferritor and representatives of three other advocacy groups met Harris at the Capitol Hill Club for an early morning breakfast meeting.

Ferritor used the opportunity to discuss TSC’s legislative priorities and to urge the congressman to cosponsor several important pieces of legislation. Among the bills discussed was H.R. 177, the death tax repeal measure.

Congressman Harris was very aware of this law and even called it “very unpopular legislation” and “outdated,” Ferritor reports. “The Seniors Coalition and all of our members agree with the Congressman on continued page 3

TSC opposes the nomination of Marilyn Tavenner to head up the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In 2010, when personally confronted by a TSC representative about President Obama slashing $500 billion in Medicare spending, then-acting head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tavenner claimed the cuts don’t exist and that “I don’t know where that number comes from.”

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Supporters Respond to “Million Petition Challenge”

Supporters of The Seniors Coalition are responding positively to Coalition President Dr. Joseph Bridges’ “Million Petition Challenge.”

Petitions continue to pour into TSC from around the country from seniors who are fed up with Washington.

Late last year Bridges challenged Coalition supporters to sign and return a total of one million petitions demanding CoLA reform, one million protesting extending Social Security to illegal aliens, and one million supporting a Social Security lock box. The petition drives for these three issues were already the largest in TSC history and Bridges wants each campaign to surpass one million signatures, within the first six months of 2012.

“So far, our folks are responding enthusiastically,” reports Director of Membership Services Sean Ferritor. “Petitions on all three issues arrive each day. We then are routinely sending reports on these petition campaigns up to Capitol Hill.”

All three issues are considered to be at the top of TSC’s 2012 agenda and petition campaigns related to each one have been generating huge numbers of signed petitions for years. However, Dr. Bridges told the TSC Board of Directors last year that 2012 would be a pivotal year for America’s seniors and that he wanted the Coalition to redouble its efforts to make sure the voices of America’s senior citizens are heard.

And, so far, so good.

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

Stand Up for a Fair CoLA
Sign the TSC Online Petition at: www.Senior.org

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

Dear Friend,

So, we begin another year. 2012!

I fully expect it to be a critical and momentous year for America’s senior citizens. Not only do we have the elections in November which will really shake things up, but we have so many battles to fight and win today.

TSC is the first major grassroots organization to announce its opposition to Marilyn Tavenner serving as head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This woman is an ideological zealot. She is the political soul-mate of Donald Berwick. She must be defeated.

We are also fighting hard to reform the Social Security CoLA system, opposing extending Social Security to illegal aliens, and in support of Lock Box legislation. All three issues are part of my “Million Petition Challenge.” I’m confident our supporters will continue to help us pressure Congress to do the right thing.

I’m also confident a number of other issues that are of critical importance to America’s seniors will crop up over the course of the year. Here at TSC we’ll continue to monitor what is happening on Capitol Hill and in the Administration. We’re also closely watching what is happening in state government as well.

Rest assured, TSC will always be fighting for you.

Happy New Year!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
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TSC Celebrates Berwick’s Defeat, Sets Sights On Tavenner Nomination

care for seniors. Plus, her track record with TSC proves she simply cannot be trusted.”

In 2010, Tavenner was confronted by a TSC representative at a health care forum with a question about $500 billion in cuts to Medicare that were part of the President’s health care overhaul. Instead of honestly answering the question, Tavenner claimed the cuts don’t exist and said, “I don’t know where that number comes from.”

“How can the deputy head of Medicare not know about the Administration’s massive cuts to that program?” Bridges asks. “She knew all along that the Administration was targeting seniors and she was simply spouting Obama’s talking points, hoping that TSC would simply repeat them. Any woman who is willing to lie about cuts to Medicare in such a brazen and political fashion should not be allowed to run Medicare.”

TSC is already drafting letters to key U.S. Senators opposing the Tavenner nomination. The Coalition is also planning a whole host of grassroots lobbying activities to prevent her from being confirmed.

“We didn’t spend years fighting Donald Berwick and his radical agenda to destroy Medicare only to lie down and let his deputy take over that program,” warns Bridges. “This is going to be a massive battle.” ▲

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Rep. Andy Harris Signs on to Death Tax Repeal Bill

this issue, that this law is outdated and extremely unpopular. On behalf of our 4,000,000 supporters, I thank and congratulate Congressman Harris for agreeing today to cosponsor this important repeal bill.”

Ferritor also brought up H.R. 149, the Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act that, if passed, would eliminate the taxation on Social Security benefits. “I explained to the Congressman how hard it is for seniors to live solely on Social Security in this day and age, and the fact that seniors are being taxed on their Social Security benefits is absurd,” stated Ferritor. “I urged Congressman Harris to cosponsor H.R. 149, and do everything he can to make sure this bill makes it to the House floor for debate, and ultimately passage.

“I was also able speak with the Congressman about some form of legislation to create a Social Security Lock Box,” Ferritor adds. “There have been many bills over the years.” For Example, Lock Box legislation was brought before the House of Representatives during the 107th Congress in 2000 and passed by an overwhelming majority, only to stall in the Senate. “I told the Congressman that we all know what has happened to the Social Security Trust Fund, and I think we all know what has to happen in the future.” stated Ferritor. Congressman Harris was generally supportive of TSC’s position regarding Lock Box legislation but did warn, “I don’t know if that will ultimately fix the problem.”

While a Social Security Lock Box may not be the ultimate cure for the current problems facing Social Security, the Coalition does believe it is the most immediate way to protect today’s retirees, and is also a great start to finally protect the Trust Fund from being further raided by Congress for pet projects. “Obviously, protecting Social Security from the politicians is the number one concern for senior citizens today, and, to be quite honest, this should be a priority for every citizen of this country, because we are all going to be seniors at some point,” Ferritor says.

The Seniors Coalition plans to work closely with Congressman Harris and his staff going forward. “We had a very productive meeting,” Ferritor said. “Andy Harris is a good ally to have.” ▲

Direct of Membership Services Sean Ferritor recently met with U.S. Representative Andy Harris. As a result, Harris agreed to co-sponsor the Death Tax Repeal Bill
Benefits Focus: Liberty Mutual Insurance for TSC Members

Your member benefits include a special discounted rate on Auto Insurance and Home Insurance from Liberty Mutual. We’re proud to provide our members with a great benefit from a Fortune 100 company that protects millions of people across America. Find out more about Liberty Mutual Home & Auto Insurance. To learn more about how Liberty Mutual can meet your insurance needs, visit www.Senior.org.

Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.

Pending Bills Before Congress of Concern to Senior Citizens

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death Tax Repeal (H.R. 177)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions in support</td>
<td></td>
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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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<td>TSC supporters should urge their Representatives to vote YES</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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<td>TSC supporters should urge their Representatives to vote YES</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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<td>TSC supporters should urge their Representatives to vote YES</td>
<td></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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<td>TSC supporters should urge their Representatives to vote YES</td>
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N=TSC opposes  Y=TSC supports

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 stopped 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

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 $ ___________

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________

Please make your check payable to “TSC”.

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