Vitter Enlists TSC in Social Security Lock Box Battle

Senator David Vitter, a Republican from Louisiana, has asked The Seniors Coalition to help recruit cosponsors for his Social Security Lock Box bill, S. 123. TSC is working with the Senator’s staff to lobby other Senators, as well as generate public support for the measure that will protect the Social Security Trust Fund from Congressional raids. As part of the effort, Senator Vitter has written a letter to members of the Coalition and prospective TSC members.

“We are very happy that Senator Vitter asked us to work with him on this critical issue,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “TSC has been fighting for lock box legislation since it was founded. I’m glad to see that Senator Vitter is taking the lead on this issue.”

In his letter, Vitter specifically asks seniors to become “Citizen Cosponsors” of his legislation by signing petitions to their U.S. Senators. The petitions are to be returned to TSC which will organize them and then report back directly to Vitter’s office on the results of the campaign.

“I’ve asked The Seniors Coalition to help me by coordinating this national petition drive. As the oldest and largest right-of-center advocacy alternative to the liberal AARP, I know The Seniors Coalition has the grassroots clout to help me spread the word widely and encourage more senior citizens to get involved,” Vitter writes in his letter. “And that’s exactly what I need right now to persuade my 99 other colleagues in the U.S. Senate to get on board with my plan to protect Social Security with a ‘Lock Box.’”

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Million Petition Challenge Update: Petitions Pour in as Members Take Bridges’ Call to Action Seriously

The Seniors Coalition’s One Million Petition Challenge continues to inspire Seniors Coalition supporters to take action. Petitions on Social Security CoLA reform, a Lock Box, and preventing illegal aliens from receiving Social Security benefits continue to come by mail and online.

Late last year TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph 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

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Dear Friend,

I’m off to Washington for the TSC Board Meeting and Lobby Day!

At the end of this month, I’ll be convening the entire TSC board and staff for intensive meetings on the current and future plans of The Seniors Coalition as well as meeting with various Congressional officials and Members of Congress.

You can be sure we’ll have stacks of petitions to deliver as well!

Our goal is to not only conduct our board business, but to show both our friends and opponents on Capitol Hill that TSC is a grassroots force to be reckoned with.

I look forward to sitting down with Senator David Vitter and personally thanking him for his hard work on behalf of America’s senior citizens and to make sure he understands that TSC’s members are 100% ready to work with him on passing lockbox legislation.

We will, of course, provide pictures and video on the TSC website of everything that goes on. And we will give you a detailed report in next month’s Senior Class.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition

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Coalition Helps Seniors Make Sense of Confusing Death Tax Debate

Having an organization in Washington, D.C., that is constantly monitoring legislation that affects senior citizens is even more valuable than many TSC members realize. Take, for instance, recent events surrounding efforts in the House of Representatives to repeal the Death Tax.

The Seniors Coalition has been lobbying for repeal of the hated Death Tax for years and was supporting passage of H.R. 177, a repeal bill sponsored by Representative Mac Thornberry. However, TSC contacts on Capitol Hill informed the Coalition that opponents of the Death Tax were putting their efforts behind H.R. 1259 sponsored by Representative Kevin Brady. Brady’s repeal bill is very similar to Thornberry’s but was picking up more cosponsors. Currently H.R. 1259 has an amazing 202 cosponsors, just 16 votes shy the total needed for passage.

“Changes in bill numbers and legislative strategy can easily confuse even our most knowledgeable members and supporters,” explains Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “So, that’s one of TSC’s primary missions – to sort through what’s happening on Capitol Hill, explain things to our members, and then take action. So, now we are wholeheartedly supporting H.R. 1259, and we are working hard to find those last 16 votes.”

New Action Center Allows TSC Supporters to Fight Back Online

TSC’s online Action Center has been revamped. TSC’s new online Action Center has been unveiled at www.Senior.org. The new page should better help seniors contact their representatives in Congress and find online petitions that they can sign or forward to friends and family members for their signature.

This new Action Center is part of the Coalition’s effort to expand its programs online and better serve the growing number of senior citizens who follow politics and public policy on the World Wide Web.

The Action Center now features lists of current petition campaigns, a “Million Petition Challenge” petition counter, and a list of ways to contact your U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator including their direct office phone numbers.
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**Vitter Enlists TSC in Social Security Lock Box Battle**

“This campaign is critical to saving Social Security,” explains Bridges. “Senator Vitter understands the problem and is fighting hard to protect the Trust Fund. Every senior citizen in America should rally behind him and support S. 123.”

Since 1996, TSC has collected 958,173 petitions in support of lock box legislation. This petition drive is part of Bridges’ Million Petition Challenge which aims to collect 1,000,000 petitions.

“There is no reason the American people can’t force the Senate to pass this bill,” Bridges says. “In 2001, then-Congressman David Vitter supported lock box legislation in the House of Representatives. It passed 407-2 and then died in the Senate. This year, we're taking aim at the Senate and we aren't going to take ‘No’ for an answer. The Senate must pass this bill.” ▲

**Million Petition Challenge Update: Petitions Pour in as Members Take Bridges’ Call to Action Seriously**

largest in TSC history, and Bridges challenged TSC’s supporters to put each of them over the one million mark this year.

“I’m thrilled that our members and supporters have taken me up on my challenge,” says Bridges. “These are three critical issues involving Social Security that we have been working on for years. It will be very helpful if we can collect one million signatures for all three petitions.”

TSC has installed a counter on its website at www.senior.org that provides a tally on the number of signatures collected for each petition. The million petition logo on the website’s Action Center identifies which petitions are part of the challenge.

“It really is exciting to see so many senior citizens involved,” Bridges remarks. “And now that U.S. Senator David Vitter is working directly with us on lockbox legislation, this petition drive will be even more successful.” ▲

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**Ferritor Video “Welcomes” Seniors**

As part of The Seniors Coalition’s drive to use new technology to attract new supporters and members, Sean Ferritor, TSC’s Executive Director has recorded a video welcoming visitors to TSC’s website. The video may be found on the “About Us” page at www.Senior.org or on the Coalition’s YouTube channel.

In the video, Ferritor briefly explains TSC’s mission, its accomplishments and history, and his critical role in making sure the Coalition represents its members in Washington, D.C.

“I’m glad I had the opportunity to film this,” Ferritor said after the shooting wrapped up. “It took me an awful lot of tries but I think I convey what TSC is all about and what we are trying to accomplish.” ▲

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**Stand Up for a Fair CoLA**

Sign the TSC Online Petition at: www.Senior.org

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**TSC Executive Director Sean Ferritor recorded a “welcome” video for new visitors to TSC’s website at www.Senior.org.**
Pending Bills
Before Congress
of Concern to
Senior Citizens

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

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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
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