TSC Rips Obama Plan to Defund Social Security

The Seniors Coalition is actively opposing President Barack Obama’s plan to suspend payments into the Social Security Trust Fund in order to extend a cut in payroll taxes.

“President Obama wants to use money that is supposed to be funding Social Security as an economic stimulus instead,” warns TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “TSC is all for tax cuts, but cutting the payroll tax like this hasn’t helped the economy, it has undermined the already fragile Social Security system, and it allows the Administration to forgo tough spending cuts elsewhere in the federal budget.”

The President wants to extend a cut in the Social Security payroll tax that expires at the end of this year as part of his “jobs bill.” He claims that the cut will help revive the economy. But Bridges points out that the policy has profound costs, too.

“If the President believes tax cuts can help the economy, that’s fine,” Bridges says. “However, he’s literally taking money from Social Security instead of cutting some other tax that is funding our bloated and out-of-control government. Does this mean he is going

GOP Candidates Should Stop Playing Political Games Where Social Security is Concerned

The Seniors Coalition is warning the Republican candidates for President that they need to provide specifics about their plans for Social Security and that heated political rhetoric designed simply to score political points is not what America’s senior citizens want to hear.

“The last thing America’s struggling senior citizens want is to have to listen to a juvenile back-and-forth argument over Social Security that doesn’t address the real and very serious concerns they have about this massive program,” warns TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “The Republican debate in California wasn’t very encouraging. The two GOP front runners for the nomination were talking in sound bites instead of providing

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President Obama proposed to extend a cut in the amount of money Americans pay into the Social Security Trust fund as part of his latest economic stimulus scheme.

Mitt Romney needs to stop trying to score political points on Social Security and put forward a plan to stop the raids and save the program.

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Dear Friend,

President Obama is again trying to pull a fast one on America’s seniors. He wants to extend Social Security, which is already broke. The money you paid into the Trust Fund has been looted and used to pay for other government spending programs. So now, in order for you to receive the benefits you have earned, the government has to take the Social Security money being paid into the system by younger Americans – your children and grandchildren – in order to pay you.

But now, the President wants to take even more money out of the Trust Fund in the form of this tax “cut!” Here’s a better idea: Leave the funding for Social Security alone, and, instead, give the tax cut to senior citizens who are still paying taxes on their Social Security benefits thanks to Bill Clinton’s 1993 tax hikes.

I don’t need to tell you that Social Security is already broke. The money you paid into the Trust Fund has been looted and used to pay for other government spending programs. So now, in order for you to receive the benefits you have earned, the government has to take the Social Security money being paid into the system by younger Americans – your children and grandchildren – in order to pay you.

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I have an even better idea. How about cutting discretionary spending and cutting all federal income taxes? It won’t fix Social Security, but this plan will at least help the economy without ruining the lives of America’s retirees!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
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TSC Rips Obama Plan to Defund Social Security

to cut Social Security, too, and if he isn’t, where is he going to get the money?”

TSC, of course, will oppose any effort to cut Social Security benefits.

“What the Administration wants to do is grossly irresponsible,” warns Bridges. “Social Security is going to collapse if we keep diverting money like this. We are demanding that the Administration cut other federal taxes and slash general government spending. That will help get the economy moving again without undermining the financial stability of Social Security.”

President Obama, doesn’t seem to want to do that, however. He has steadfastly refused to make significant cuts to discretionary government spending and the recent “debt ceiling deal” he made with Republicans does little to help the economy and doesn’t put the nation on course to balance the budget.

“President Obama is not only ignoring our fiscal crisis, he is making it worse. I truly believe Social Security will not be around in a few years if we keep this up. He is trying to starve it to death,” says Bridges.

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GOP Candidates Should Stop Playing Political Games Where Social Security is Concerned

real solutions. Mitt Romney, obviously sensing an opportunity to score political points against his main rival, blasted Texas Governor Rick Perry for calling Social Security a ‘Ponzi scheme.’ Perry stood by his assertion but said nothing about how he would fix it. That’s not acceptable.”

Bridges says that any serious candidate for President needs to be honest with the American people and must prove that he or she understands how to fix Social Security without destroying the lives of millions of senior citizens. “The fact is, Social Security is a mess,” Bridges warns. “Congress has looted the Trust Fund, the government has been monkeying with CoLAs, and the President of the United States has even threatened to stop sending out Social Security checks. I appreciate Rick Perry’s willingness to point out the fact that, thanks to our government, future generations of Americans likely will not receive the benefits they have paid for. However, he needs to tell current seniors what his plans are.

As for Mr. Romney, he must stop posturing and prove to voters that he understands Social Security is facing a very real crisis. He needs to apply his considerable business acumen to solving the program’s problems instead of acting like a typical politician who sees Social Security as a political club that he can use to beat his opponent into submission.”

The Seniors Coalition urges all Republican and Democratic candidates for federal office to commit to supporting TSC’s Social Security reform agenda that includes implementing a Social Security “Lock Box” to prevent raids by Congress, reforming the way Cost-of-Living-Adjustments are calculated so they reflect the true cost of goods and services senior citizens buy, and protecting the benefits of current retirees while reforming Social Security for future generations. ▲
“Our supporters sure are fired up!” said TSC Director of Membership Services Sean Ferritor when he saw the latest delivery reports on the number of petitions being signed and returned from across the country.

Indeed TSC’s members continue to participate in the Coalition’s grass roots campaigns. “We are preparing to send petitions concerning Obamacare repeal and Social Security up to Capitol Hill right now,” says Ferritor. “And it’s a big job. Seniors are furious at Washington. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything like this before.”

Ferritor leads TSC’s efforts to deliver the petitions to Capitol Hill or the White House or wherever they need to go. He also makes sure that Congressional offices receive copies of The Senior Class monthly newsletter. “We have a continuous stream of petitions and surveys coming in, being counted and processed and then being delivered,” Ferritor explains. “We take these petition drives very seriously. It’s our primary means of influencing Congress and the Administration.”

“I don’t think that Sean is going to get any relief any time soon,” jokes TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “We have more grassroots campaigns in the works, and I think America’s senior citizens are going to be even more involved as we get closer to the 2012 Presidential elections.”

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**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:

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

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**Pending Bills Before Congress of Concern to Senior Citizens**

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<thead>
<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>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>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act (H.R. 149)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating Sunshine, Participation, and Accountability for Our Nation Act (H.R. 1432)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Social Security Lock Box Act of 2011 (S.123)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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N=TSC opposes Y=TSC supports

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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
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- $25
- $50
- $100
- $250
- Other $________

Name: ________________________________
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Please make your check payable to “TSC”.

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