Trustees Say Medicare and Social Security Are Doomed Without Reform

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner recently announced that both Medicare and Social Security will become insolvent much sooner than previously thought and that significant reforms to these programs are critical if they are to survive.

According to the annual report of the trustees who oversee the two programs, Medicare, which now provides health insurance to some 47 million elderly and disabled Americans, will begin running a deficit in 2024, five years earlier than projected last year. Social Security, meanwhile, began paying out more in benefits than it collected in taxes last year and now faces insolvency in 2036, compared to 2037 in last year’s projections.

“We should not wait for the trust funds to be exhausted to make the reforms necessary to protect our current and future retirees,” said Geithner.

“It is ironic that the Treasury Secretary of an Administration that has opposed reforming these two programs, that has actually slashed Medicare spending to pay for Obamacare, and that has repeatedly raided the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for its historic spending spree is now warning that these two critical programs are doomed if the government doesn’t change its ways,” says Seniors Coalition President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “We’ve been saying these things for decades. Seniors have known these programs were in trouble because of mismanagement by the government. Instead of pointing out the obvious, Tim Geithner and the rest of the Obama Administration doesn’t change its ways,” says Seniors Coalition President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “We’ve been saying these things for decades. Seniors have known these programs were in trouble because of mismanagement by the government. Instead of pointing out the obvious, Tim Geithner and the rest of the Obama

TSC Asks, “Why Is Death Tax Repeal Not Front and Center in Congress?”

Surveys show that the Death Tax is one of the most unpopular of federal taxes. Republicans have consistently called for its abolition. Yet, now that the GOP is in power in the House of Representatives, no action has been taken to abolish this tax.

“TSC’s position has always been to abolish the Death Tax,” says President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “We were able to limit it somewhat last year when it was set to come back after being temporarily abolished. But lately, no one is talking about it on Capitol Hill and that has to change.”

Representative Mac Thornberry has introduced HR. 177 which permanently repeals the death tax. The measure has fifty-nine cosponsors and TSC is backing it. However, the measure has been stuck in committee for months.

“I understand and appreciate that Congress has a lot on its plate, and the House has done a good job in trying to abolish Obamacare. However, repealing the Death Tax is one of those issues that should be both good policy and good politics. The Death Tax raises very little money for the federal government. It is wildly unpopular. It is time for Congress to

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Dear Friend,

The “Great Recession” has hit The Seniors Coalition hard, just as I’m sure it has affected you. Contributions to TSC are way off from what I had budgeted for this year. I have had to either postpone or outright cancel a number of grassroots initiatives to fight back against the professional politicians.

For instance, I have had to delay a major overhaul of TSC’s website. I have had to cut our travel expenses and overhead to the bone. To make matters worse, this fund-raising crisis couldn’t have come at a worse time. Congress is debating major changes to Medicare, seniors are being squeezed by inflation, and the raids on the Social Security Trust Fund are continuing.

This is no time for TSC to be stuck on the sidelines because we don’t have the funds to fight for you!

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

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TSC Backs Balanced Budget Amendment

The Seniors Coalition is backing a proposed Balanced Budget Amendment supported by all 47 Senate Republicans. In addition to mandating that Congress balance the federal budget each year, the plan imposes strict spending caps based on the size of the nation’s gross national product and requires a super-majority to increase taxes.

“This Balanced Budget Amendment is a sensible proposal that will get our financial house back in order and our economy back on track,” said Dr. Joseph Bridges, TSC’s President and CEO.

Senate Republicans hope to force a vote on their amendment this year. Some House Republicans are also working on their own Balanced Budget Amendment. ▲

Why We Ask for Contributions in Addition to Annual Dues

Annual dues fund a significant portion of The Seniors Coalition’s annual budget. However, when TSC was first founded, the Coalition’s board decided to keep annual dues low in order to allow as many seniors to join as possible. Since then, TSC has never raised the price of membership.

That commitment to keeping membership costs low comes at a price, however. A majority of TSC’s annual budget must be raised through additional, voluntary gifts from loyal members. That’s why the Coalition regularly asks for contributions as part of our grassroots petition drives and survey campaigns.

So, the next time you receive a fundraising appeal from The Seniors Coalition, please remember that in order to adequately represent you in Washington, D.C., we regularly ask our members to make additional contributions. ▲

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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 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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budget and economic policy team should resign in disgrace.”

TSC has been calling for a complete overhaul of Medicare for quite some time and was the first national seniors organization to endorse House Republicans’ efforts to reform the program in order to give seniors the power to choose how their Medicare benefits are spent. “The Ryan plan in the House is a good effort at saving Medicare. It is far from perfect but it is a workable plan,” says Bridges. “The Obama Administration has no plan other than spouting nonsense about how Obamacare will make health care cheaper. That is unacceptable. Tens of millions of seniors depend on Medicare. It has to be fixed and fixed now, without government rationing of care.”

On the issue of Social Security, TSC has been leading the way in publicizing how the federal government has looted that program to pay for other spending initiatives. The Coalition has long supported placing a lock box on the Social Security Trust Fund in order to prevent these raids. However, liberal Democrats and even some moderate and conservative Republicans have stood in the way, instead choosing to continue to steal from the fund.

“TSC will continue to fight to reform these programs,” Bridges explains. “And if President Obama has now changed his tune and wants to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem, then I say, ‘Welcome to the party, pal. What took you so long?’”

CoLA Reform Is a Top Priority, Says Bridges

With inflation hitting America’s senior citizens hard, TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges says reforming the way the government computes Social Security CoLAs is even more important than ever. “Senior citizens are facing some of the worst inflation in years, but the government refuses to recognize it so it doesn’t have to pay a CoLA,” says Bridges. “I now believe that this is pure politics. Seniors don’t like President Obama very much so his administration pretends there is no inflation in order to stick it to the old people who depend on Social Security. That is why TSC and all our supporters need to keep fighting.”

Bridges reports that as of this writing, TSC has collected 47,208 petitions in the last six months from seniors around the country demanding CoLA reform. “Every day, our members go into the store or pharmacy and the price of milk or their medications seems to be higher,” Bridges complains. “They are fed up. Our members who call us are suffering and want something done. The CoLA issue is a huge deal.”

Bridges says that TSC will continue collecting signatures on its CoLA reform petition for as long as it takes. “We will not and cannot give up on this issue and let Barack Obama win. This lack of a fair CoLA is just a massive "backdoor" cut in Social Security benefits and it will not stand.”
New TSC Discounts with Wyndham Hotel

As a special introductory offer to demonstrate our new and improved benefits, The Seniors Coalition has struck a deal with Wyndham Hotels. During this special offer, and for viewing our website at www.senior.org, you will receive an additional 10% off the “Best Available Rate” at participating locations every time you travel. Just mention The Seniors Coalition special discount ID number 67067 at time of booking to receive your discount. Start saving now, and call our special member benefits hotline using the telephone numbers on our website to reserve your room today at one of these hotel chains: AmeriHost Inn®, Super 8®, Days Inn®, Travel Lodge®, Howard Johnson®, Wingate by Wyndham®, Knights Inn®, Wyndham Hotels®, Ramada®, and Baymont Inns®.

Pending Bills Before Congress of Concern to Senior Citizens

<table>
<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>
<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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N=TSC opposes  Y=TSC supports

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:

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