CoLA Reform is Our Top Priority Says Bridges. Government CoLA Scam Cost Average Senior $1,266 Over Past Two Years

The Seniors Coalition is expanding its national grassroots campaign promoting a complete overhaul of the way the government computes Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments (“CoLAs”). “Inflation is back with a vengeance and it is getting worse,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Despite what the Administration says, inflation has been ravaging seniors for a couple of years now and this year it is getting much, much worse. Seniors have had no CoLA at all for the past two years and they are really hurting. This system must be fixed right away.”

In a massive marketing campaign reaching all across the nation, TSC is pointing out that the average senior citizen has been denied approximately $1,266 in additional benefits thanks to the Obama Administration. According to a TSC analysis, because CoLAs have been cancelled for the past two years and each year CoLAs are computed using last year’s benefits as a base amount, senior citizens have been denied $1,266 each in additional benefits.

“This is a huge sum for seniors,” Bridges explains. “That is why we are lobbying in support of a guaranteed 3% CoLA law and demanding that inflation for seniors be based on realistic numbers, not the nonsense statistics that the bureaucrats are using right now.”

Based on comments coming into TSC from senior citizens all across the country, it is quite apparent that they are being seriously affected by rising inflation. Rising food, medicine and gasoline prices are sending shockwaves through the U.S. economy and are particularly hard on Americans on

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TSC Calls GOP Medicare Reforms a Step in the Right Direction

Negotiations over the 2012 federal budget are focusing on two different visions for Medicare and the fate of that popular and important program. Republicans in the House of Representatives, led by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, have passed a federal budget blueprint that reforms Medicare through a “premium support” program for future generations of Americans while not changing benefits or how they are now delivered to current enrollee.

President Obama, on the other hand, has proposed controlling Medicare costs by further empowering the controversial Independent Payment Advisory Board to slash government payments to doctors. Often called Obamacare’s “Death Panel,” the IPAB is an unelected board of bureaucrats charged with deciding how much the government is willing to pay doctors and hospitals for various services. One Congressional analysis reports that this plan would result in a benefit cut of approximately $9,600 per senior citizen over the next ten years.

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“Repeal Obamacare” Goes National

Immediately after Obamacare was passed by Congress last year, The Seniors Coalition called for its repeal. Now, just over one year later, parts of that controversial law are being stricken by Congress and the Courts. However, Dr. Joseph Bridges, TSC’s President and CEO, isn’t satisfied. “Obamacare must be repealed in its entirety and The Seniors Coalition is going to make sure that happens,” he promises. “The Seniors Coalition led the charge against ‘Hillarycare’ back in the ’90s and we are leading the charge against this big-government health care takeover, too.”

To that end, the Coalition has mailed out “Repeal Obamacare” grassroots action letters nationwide in order to keep up the pressure on Congress and the President to act. “All the political momentum is on our side,” says Bridges. “We have convinced the American people that this monstrosity must be repealed. Now we have to mobilize them to help us force Congress and President Obama to do the right thing – Repeal Obamacare!”

The letter sent to TSC members includes a petition to House of Representatives Budget Chairman Paul Ryan who will play a key role in negotiating a budget deal with President Obama and Senate Democrats. Ryan has proposed to repeal Obamacare as part of his budget proposal. However, the President sees this Health Control Law as his signature achievement and is opposed to repealing it. Bridges hopes that thousands and thousands of petitions from America’s seniors will help Ryan convince the President that the American people hate Obamacare and that he must agree to its repeal. “These petitions could make a real difference,” says Bridges. “I hope every single one of our members signs and returns them as quickly as possible.” ▲

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

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

Dear Friend,

It is that time of year again. Time to start thinking about renewing your membership with TSC.

I know 2012 is still a long way off but I’ve found that the earlier we start asking our members to renew and the more opportunities we give you to do so, the more successful we are.

And as I’ve said many times in the past, the more members we have, the more influential TSC is.

This year, your membership in TSC is more valuable and important than ever. Our new prescription drug benefit program is an excellent deal and is completely free to TSC members. Plus, in 2012 we hope to unveil a whole host of additional benefits.

We deliberately keep our membership dues very low so that as many Americans as possible can participate in our grassroots campaigns and our benefit programs. In fact, our annual membership dues have remained $10 since TSC opened its doors 22 years ago!

Please renew your 2012 membership when you receive my renewal letter. We really need you by our side and fighting the politicians in 2012.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
CoLA Reform is Our Top Priority Says Bridges. Government CoLA Scam Cost Average Senior $1,266 Over Past Two Years

fixed incomes. “The Obama Administration is doing this on purpose,” charges Bridges. “The President’s policy of deliberately devaluing the U.S. dollar in order to keep interest payments on the debt smaller has resulted in serious inflation. That policy, when coupled with the government’s cancellation of CoLAs both last year and this year, has created this crisis.”

Next year, when the Presidential campaign is in full swing, seniors will receive a small CoLA, government officials say. However, that CoLA is expected to be eaten up by higher Medicare premiums leaving seniors with nothing extra in their benefit checks for the third year in a row.

“I expect that once the election is over, CoLAs will once again be cancelled,” Bridges warns. “Unless we get a law that locks in CoLAs and requires that they be computed in a fair and realistic fashion, the politicians will continue to play games with our benefits.”

New Discount Prescription Drug Program Could Save TSC Members Big

The Senior Coalition is proud to announce that it has partnered with Paramount Rx to offer a comprehensive prescription discount benefit program that can save TSC Members as much as 20% off brand name drugs and 70% off generic drugs. The new benefit card was included in a “Repeal Obamacare” grassroots action letter sent to selected TSC members nationwide. The program’s prescription drug discount card is accepted by pharmacies all across the country and is valid for use by a TSC member’s entire family. All FDA-approved drugs are included in the program. Please check with your pharmacy to see if your TSC/Paramount Rx prescription card will save you money when you next fill your prescriptions.

TSC Calls GOP Medicare Reforms a Step in the Right Direction

“Representative Ryan’s budget proposal cuts government spending and lays out a solid plan for reforming Medicare for future generations. TSC has always acknowledged that Medicare as it currently functions is rife with fraud and inefficiency and must be reformed if it is to survive. To do that, we support introducing more consumer choice into Medicare,” explains Dr. Joseph Bridges, TSC’s President and CEO. “Although the Ryan budget plan is far from perfect, it is a good first step toward both saving Medicare and bringing federal spending under control.”

Bridges says TSC will actively support the Ryan plan and will do everything it can to explain the plan to the American people. “President Obama and his liberal allies will try to paint this proposal as cutting Medicare,” Bridges says. “That charge is patently false. The Ryan plan keeps Medicare as is for current retirees and then empowers future generations of American senior citizens to be able to make their own choices over how to spend their Medicare benefits.”

Obama’s reform scheme, Bridges points out, relies on shortchanging doctors and providing physicians and hospitals with an incentive to refuse to treat Medicare patients entirely. “Obama wants to ration care through this IPAB. Seniors will still get their benefits, but the government will either not allow them to use these benefits to get the care they need or there will be few, if any, doctors who can afford to treat them,” Bridges explains. “The President’s plan truly will destroy Medicare.”

TSC urges all its members to contact their U.S. Senators and demand that they support the Ryan Budget plan in order to save Medicare.

GOP Budget Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan introduced a spending blueprint that protects Medicare for current seniors and reforms it for future generations. However, TSC still believes the budget blueprint is far from perfect.

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**Comparison of Medicare “Reform” Plans**

**OBAMA DEMOCRATS**
- Cut Medicare funding to pay for Obamacare.
- Increase power of the government’s Independent Payment Advisory Board to cut reimbursements to doctors.
- Average benefit cuts of $9,600 for current Medicare recipients over the next ten years.

**HOUSE REPUBLICANS**
- Current Medicare beneficiaries will see no change in coverage.
- Future beneficiaries will be allowed to choose a private insurance plan that meets their needs from a government approved list and the government will pay a subsidy directly to the company.

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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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 98)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
</tr>
<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

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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, then 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
- ☐ Other $________

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________

Please make checks 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

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**Early 2012 Membership Renewal Now Underway**

TSC’s 2012 membership drive is now underway. By renewing your membership now, you can help TSC save much needed funds. Each member who renews his or her membership early frees up money for grassroots lobbying programs that would otherwise be spent on renewal notices. Your renewal package should arrive in your mailbox by mid-July. Please read it carefully and then return the enclosed membership renewal form before you get busy and forget.

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**The Senior Class**

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