Coalition to Go on Offensive Despite Obama Reelection

The Seniors Coalition plans to be more aggressive than ever in defending the interests of its members despite the fact that Barack Obama was reelected President earlier this month.

“The country needs TSC now more than ever,” explains Coalition President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Now that Obama has been returned to the White House, we expect he’ll launch a full scale assault on seniors and their interests. We have to recruit more members and bombard Congress with more petitions, survey results and phone calls than ever.”

Bridges points out that while Obama has never been an advocate for seniors, now that he doesn’t have to stand for reelection, he’ll be even more hostile to their interests than before.

“We are going to have to work twice as hard to repeal or limit ObamaCare, protect Social Security and Medicare from this man and defend the retirement savings of millions and millions of older Americans,” Bridges says. “I expect that the Administration will go after private retirement savings in the coming years and even attack some senior citizens as being too rich to receive the Social Security benefits that they earned.”

TSC plans to launch one of its largest recruiting drives in 2013 aimed at dramatically increasing the Coalition’s membership base. The more members The Seniors Coalition has, the more clout the organization can wield on Capitol Hill.

“The good news is that a large number of Democratic senators from red or swing states will be up for reelection in 2014,” explains Bridges. “Those senators are not going to want to follow Obama on continued page 2

Ferritor Works Capitol Hill During Lame Duck Session

Congress just returned from its October break and The Seniors Coalition is hard at work making sure the “lame duck Congress” doesn’t do any more harm to the country or America’s seniors.

Executive Director Sean Ferritor is planning on spending much of this session down on Capitol Hill making sure the Coalition’s members are well represented.

“Fiscal issues are the top priority of this lame duck session,” Ferritor says. “We’re particularly concerned about the so-called ‘Fiscal Cliff’ negotiations in which there is talk of cutting tax deductions and hiking tax rates. We generally don’t believe the government needs more of our members’ money, so we oppose any of these revenue schemes.”

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Coalition to Go on Offensive Despite Obama Reelection

some crazed second-term ideological crusade against the elderly. We believe we will have some significant influence over them and will even be able to stop Obama cold on some occasions as long as we have a strong and determined membership base.”

Bridges believes that in the coming years inflation will also become a bigger and bigger issue leading to titanic battles over Social Security CoLAs. “We are already fighting hard for CoLA reform. That’s a top priority for us. However, if inflation rises like many economists fear it will thanks to Obama’s economic policies, seniors are going to be really squeezed. We are not going to let up on this issue. We will be Obama’s worst nightmare. If he wants to ruin the value of the U.S. dollar and make life miserable for senior citizens, TSC and our members are going to make life even more miserable for him.”

The Coalition will also focus more intently on the details of ObamaCare’s implementation. The controversial law has only now begun to seriously go into effect and TSC’s staff will spend more time reviewing proposed regulations and working with other right-of-center groups to attack the law. “We are going to be much more proactive in mobilizing our members against ObamaCare’s details,” Bridges promises. “This law is so bad that we can’t let even a single regulation go unchallenged. If we can’t repeal ObamaCare outright right now, we are going to fight a political war of attrition over each individual part. And to start, we will urge the various state governors to opt out of ObamaCare by refusing to set up state-based health care exchanges.”

Bridges believes that at least twenty and maybe as many as twenty-five, or half of all the states, can be convinced to not cooperate with the federal government on this issue. “The fewer states helping Obama on this, the better,” he says.

Finally, as part of TSC’s political counter-offensive, Bridges says he wants to expand TSC’s alliances with other allied groups and friendly members of Congress. “I know our Executive Director meets regularly with other organizations that share our philosophy of government, but we are going to expand those contacts and begin doing some joint projects together. After all, we are all fighting the same enemy and this war is going to last another four long years.”

Dear Friend,

I know many of you are disappointed that Barack Obama has won reelection. You might even be rather worried about what the future holds.

However, the American people have spoken, and for whatever reason they have decided that Mr. Obama was the better candidate. That doesn’t mean America’s senior citizens should simply give up fighting for what we know is right and fair. Far from it.

Personally, while I am profoundly frightened for the future of our great nation, I am also determined to keep battling this man for as long as it takes.

It might take a little longer than we had hoped, but we will dismantle ObamaCare, we will save the Social Security system and fix CoLAs, we will reform Medicare, we will repeal the Death Tax. That’s a promise.

The Seniors Coalition has been around for an entire generation. We are used to butting heads with the professional politicians, and we have won many more battles than we have lost. Over the next four years I expect that we will continue that tradition and make a major difference in Washington for all Americans.

I hope you will renew your membership in TSC for next year. I hope you will continue to support and participate in our grassroots lobbying campaigns. We sure need you. Now, more than ever.

Keep fighting!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Ferritor Works Capitol Hill During Lame Duck Session

Changes to the deductibility of mortgage interest and the tax treatment of various types of retirement funds are just two things that are “on the table” that could directly affect seniors, Ferritor explains. “The budget negotiations are a real mess, and my job is to make sure that the politicians understand that some of these changes could really hurt the nation’s seniors,” he says.

Changes in Medicare are also possible as a result of a deal between the White House and Congressional Republicans. “No sane person believes that Medicare is in good shape,” he says. “However, in fixing this program the government can’t do anything that will adversely affect Americans over the age of fifty. These folks have made certain decisions about their retirement and their future health care based on how Medicare currently functions. Any reforms or changes need to be significant, but need to be phased in over time and only affect people who still have time to plan.”

Ferritor notes that the Obama Administration has been perfectly willing to arbitrarily cut Medicare reimbursements to doctors in order to save money. “And that is an approach we simply cannot support,” he says.

Other issues of concern to TSC during this lame duck session include CoLA reform as well as Death Tax repeal. The federal estate tax – usually referred to as the “Death Tax” – is set to soar on January 1st. The Seniors Coalition supports the full repeal of this hated tax, and Sean Ferritor says it’s a hot-button issue in meetings he’s been having on Capitol Hill. (See this month’s Legislative Report on page 3 for more on this issue.)

“Overall, I’ll be very happy if we can get through this lame duck session without the politicians doing too much damage,” Ferritor says. “Many of these men and women are retiring or lost their reelection bids so they no longer have any reason to fear the voters. Unaccountable politicians are the very worst kind!”

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

Everything in Washington is now centered on the lame duck session of Congress. Immediately after the election many of us here at TSC and our allied organizations were a bit depressed. However, we’ve all gotten over it and are fighting like crazy to make sure whatever “deal” House Speaker John Boehner and President Obama cut in order to avoid the so-called “fiscal cliff” isn’t too disastrous for the country.

I’ve been spending a large part of my time on the Death Tax issue working with the great staff of U.S. Representative Kevin Brady. As you know, Congressman Brady has been fighting hard to abolish this tax and he has the votes in the House to do it. However, Republican leaders have refused to allow his bill to come up for a vote because the Death Tax issue is part of their discussions with the White House over future tax rates.

It’s a mess. I sincerely believe that if the House Republicans would simply pass Brady’s bill and vote to eliminate this tax, they would have more leverage in their negotiations with the President. However, that doesn’t seem to be very likely at this point.

On the issue of Social Security, I’ve been working very closely with Senator David Vitter’s office to build support for his lock box bill. Senator Vitter is a great friend of America’s seniors and he and his staff are a real pleasure to work with. Later this month I will formally present the Senator with stacks of petitions supporting his bill signed by TSC members. We’ll be sure to publish pictures in our next Senior Class newsletter!

As always, if you have any questions or comments about our legislative or grassroots lobbying program, please feel free to give me a call at 202-261-3594.
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>Congressional Health Care for Seniors Act (S. 2196)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>This bill reforms Medicare by allowing seniors to enroll in the same health care plan as Members of Congress and federal employees, as well as preserving the Medicare program for future generations without benefit cuts or rationing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Lock Box (S. 123 &amp; H.R. 219)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and making personal visits lobbying in favor of this bill. Efforts to support this measure are part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death Tax Repeal (H.R. 1259, S.2242)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “YES.” The house version of this bill has 220 cosponsors, two more than what is needed for passage.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2011 (H.R. 776)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “YES.”</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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