Death Tax Bill Hits Magic Number with Help from The Seniors Coalition and Its Loyal Supporters

Congressman Kevin Brady’s Death Tax Legislation reached the magic number of 218 cosponsors recently and The Seniors Coalition had a big part in the final push. After a recent hearing on ways to curtail fraud in Social Security, held by Chairman Brady’s Subcommittee on Health, Seniors Coalition’s Executive Director Sean Ferritor had the opportunity to briefly discuss the Congressman’s bill, H.R. 2429, The Death Tax Repeal Act of 2013.

“After the hearing, I wanted to thank the Congressman for his leadership on a myriad of seniors’ issues and when I mentioned to Chairman Brady that The Seniors Coalition has been tracking members that had signed onto his bill in previous Congresses but not the current one, he immediately asked me to get that information to his staff,” states Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “It was really a no brainer, this isn’t an issue you waiver on from Congress to Congress,” Ferritor continued. Congressman Brady’s bill in the last Congress also garnered enough cosponsors to pass the House of Representatives had it been brought to the floor, but sadly, it was turned aside.

The Seniors Coalition Continues to Push for Lock Box Legislation

The Social Security Trust Fund is empty, filled only with useless IOU’s, and senior citizens that have been forced to pay into Social Security for 40-50 years are the true victims. The Social Security Trust Fund that was supposed to have saved retirement for generations of seniors has been raided by the very people that were supposed to protect it. There is only one way to truly protect Social Security and hold firm on a promise that the U.S. Government made to its citizens, and that way is to create a “lock box” for the Social Security Trust Fund.

That is exactly what The Seniors Coalition, and its members and supporters, are trying to accomplish. The Seniors Coalition recently sent a letter to every member of the U.S. Senate urging them to do right by America’s senior citizens and cosponsor Senator David Vitter’s Bill, The Social Security Lock Box Act of 2013 (S.110). “Everyone knows the demise of the Social Security Trust Fund, it was systematically raided by Congress for pet projects and earmarks,” says Executive Director Sean Ferritor (right) thanks Congressman Kevin Brady, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, for his efforts to abolish the Estate Tax.

Executive Director Sean Ferritor (right) thanks Congressman Kevin Brady, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, for his efforts to abolish the Estate Tax.
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The Seniors Coalition Continues to Push for Lock Box Legislation

CEO and President Joseph Bridges. “Useless IOU’s aren’t going to help senior citizens pay for their electricity in the winter or for their prescriptions when they go to the pharmacy.”

“Our members have been clamoring for a Lock Box to protect Social Security for over 20 years, but to no avail,” claims Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “Seniors deserve better than the way the politicians in Washington treat them and our members know that. They are as savvy a group of people as you will find anywhere and I am proud to represent them,” Ferritor continued. Senator Vitter is a good friend to senior citizens and to The Seniors Coalition. We will continue to use every petition our members sign to persuade Congress to finally act to protect a promise the Federal Government made to its citizens almost 80 years ago on August 14, 1935. ▲

Tell Us Why TSC Is Important to You

Many members of The Seniors Coalition have been with us for years. We’d like to hear your stories about why you joined TSC and what TSC means to you. Please send your comments, and a picture of yourself if you have one to spare, to:

Sean Ferritor
The Seniors Coalition
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Or by email to: tsc@senior.org

Or call Sean at 202-261-3594

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

Dear Friend,

I want to let all Seniors Coalition members know about a couple of issues that will impact you directly. First and foremost, The Seniors Coalition’s early membership renewal drive begins on July 1. I need your help more than ever to combat the current administration’s constant attacks on your Social Security benefits. Remember, strength comes in numbers on Capitol Hill and we have gained a lot of ground on seniors’ issues in the 113th Congress. Please do your due diligence and get your 2015 membership renewed early. Secondly, we are in an election year and Congressmen and Senators have already started to focus primarily on their reelection bids while less and less actual work is being done on Capitol Hill. With your help, we have had some major accomplishments in the 113th Congress; thwarting the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed rule change to your Medicare Part D plan, pressuring the White House to back off their plans to alter the way your annual Cost of Living Adjustments (CoLAs) are calculated, and helping to secure the last 8 co-sponsors for Congressman Kevin Brady’s Death Tax Bill.

It’s been your constant participation that has made these victories for seniors possible, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Don’t forget, your early membership renewal package will go in the mail on July 1. Sign up early and let’s continue to fight the tough battles on Capitol Hill together!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Death Tax Bill Hits Magic Number with Help from The Seniors Coalition and Its Loyal Supporters

never brought up for a vote by the leadership in the Republican Party.

“It was very disappointing during the 112th Congress when we really had a chance to capitalize on repealing legislation that is despised by a vast majority of Seniors Coalition members,” says President and CEO Joseph Bridges. “I understand election year politics, but this law has been on the books far too long. The death tax was originally enacted to help supplement the government during times of war, and there is really no moral or logical reason for a death tax in today’s day and age.”

Not coincidentally, a mere four days after The Seniors Coalition provided the Congressman with our list of members that had yet to cosponsor his legislation, eight of the eleven members on our target list cosigned. “This is a major victory for our members and supporters” Bridges continued. “With a twenty year track record and 2,795,230 members and supporters, The Seniors Coalition members once again showed their strength, and I am grateful for that. Now we will have to wait and see if Speaker Boehner and the Republican leadership team will do the right thing and hold a vote on H.R. 2429.”

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

Thanks to you, 2014 is shaping up to be an epic year for senior citizens’ issues on Capitol Hill.

As I mentioned in last month’s Legislative Report, thanks to our members and supporters the President’s plan to alter the way your annual CoLA is calculated has been removed from the President’s 2015 budget proposal. And the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has dropped their plan to change what is arguably the most successful part of Social Security, your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan. These two victories simply would not be possible without your support.

However, there are still many battles to fight on Capitol Hill, and I will need you to stay diligent. Senator David Vitter’s Lock Box Bill (S.110) is still rotting away in a committee waiting for cosponsors. That’s where I need your help. I am urging all TSC members to pick up the phone and call your Senators today. Urge them to join as a cosponsor for S.110. While you are hitting Capitol Hill by phone, The Seniors Coalition has begun a letter campaign encouraging every member of the Senate to cosponsor S.110 to protect a promise that the Federal Government made to seniors long ago, a safe and secure retirement.

Senator Vitter has been a long time ally of The Seniors Coalition and we truly thank him for his efforts, but he can’t do it alone. So once again, The Seniors Coalition is calling on our most dedicated and loyal members to step up to the plate and spring into action. There isn’t much time left in this Congress, due to mid-term elections, so let’s stand together and work to pass Senator Vitter’s Lock Box Act of 2013 that will protect the Social Security Trust Fund from any further raids by Congress!

That’s all for this month. If you have any questions or comments about our legislative or grassroots lobbying efforts, please contact me at 202-261-3594.
Seniors Coalition’s Early 2015 Membership Renewal Begins!

It’s that time of year again, time for you to get in your early renewal forms and take advantage of all the perks of being a member of The Seniors Coalition.

July 1, 2014, marks the beginning of The Seniors Coalition’s early membership renewal drive and we need all TSC members to have their voice heard in Washington, D.C., by getting your renewals in early. The Seniors Coalition would be totally helpless if it weren’t for our loyal members and supporters, and that’s why we begin to push for renewals early.

There are many new and exciting things happening here at The Seniors Coalition. With all this activity, we need your help to finish what we have started so far in 2014 by getting in your renewal forms early for 2015. So far this year, with your help, The Seniors Coalition has fought President Obama’s scheme to totally change the way your annual Cost of Living Adjustment is calculated. Furthermore, and again with the help of dedicated members and supporters, we were able to help convince the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to shelve their proposed 700-page rule change to the incredibly popular Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan.

But there is still a lot of work to be accomplished, and I can’t do it without your support. Your early renewal package will be in the mail on July 1, and we need 100% participation from all of our loyal supporters. Make sure to get your early renewal package back to TSC headquarters as soon as possible, and I look forward to representing you on Capitol Hill in 2015.

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 the coupon below with any contribution you can afford.

Don’t be left behind! Return your early membership renewal package today and secure your seat at the table for the big issues that seniors will face in 2015.

For more information, visit our website at: www.senior.org

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  ☐ $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:
The Seniors Coalition • 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200 • Washington, D.C. 20036

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The Seniors Coalition has been determined by the IRS to be tax-exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because we lobby Congress in the public interest, donations are not tax-deductible.

Please detach this portion and retain for your record.

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