Congressman Engel Reintroduces Guaranteed 3% CoLA Bill, Calls on Seniors Coalition for Support

Congressman Eliot Engel continues to champion the fight to secure senior citizens a fair and equitable Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) by once again introducing The Guaranteed 3% CoLA Act of 2017 (H.R. 991). Now it’s time for all Seniors Coalition members and supporters to stay engaged in The Seniors Coalition national survey and petition drives as the fight to add cosponsors begins.

“Congressman Engel is very serious about getting this legislation passed in the 115th Congress,” stated President and CEO Joseph Bridges. “Our legislative staff will once again work side by side with Congressman Engel’s staff to gain the cosponsors needed to get this bill passed in the House and moved over to the Senate for further consideration,” continued Bridges. “But we won’t be done right,” continued Ferritor. “I’ve had the pleasure of working

Seniors Coalition President and CEO, Joseph Bridges, Honored by Professional Collegues

Seniors Coalition President and CEO Joseph Bridges has been named “2017 Realtor of the Year” by the 900-member Stark County Association of Realtors. The award recognizes exemplary work by a Realtor member in support of the Association’s efforts to promote the real estate industry in the larger Stark County (OH) community.

“I’m really proud of Dr. Bridges, as I am sure our members and supporters are,” states Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “This really isn’t very surprising to me at all though. Dr. Bridges is a man who gets things done, and

INSIDE:

Seniors’ Sense .................. Pg2
Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor .......... Pg3
Cost of Groceries Surging as Seniors Continue to Receive Meager Cost of Living Adjustments .................. Pg4
continued from page 1

Seniors Coalition President and CEO, Joseph Bridges, Honored by Professional Collegues

alongside Dr. Bridges for the last six years and have seen first-hand how much care and effort he puts into everything he does, especially fighting to protect the rights of senior citizens.”

The Seniors Coalition would like to formally congratulate Dr. Bridges and his wife, Charlyn, with whom he just shared his 50th wedding anniversary, for an honor well deserved. Thank you for all that you have done to protect the rights of senior citizens, as well as being a man of high integrity and honor. Congratulations, Sir! ▲

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
Suite 200
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
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,

The 115th Congress is well under way, and with it comes a flurry of new and reintroduced bills, which means it is time for you and me to get back to work. First, though, as I try to do in every issue of The Senior Class, I want to say: thank you. Thank you for continuing to participate in our mission to get seniors the safe and secure retirement they deserve after a lifetime of hard work.

Our legislative staff has hit the ground running, working with Congressman Engel and his staff to reintroduce the Guaranteed 3% CoLA Act of 2017, as well as working on Capitol Hill to recruit cosponsors. We will also be working tirelessly to identify and fight against any bill that targets Social Security and Medicare.

We have a lot of work to do over the course of the next two years, and I will be leaning on you for help to achieve these critical goals. I am urging all Seniors Coalition members to stay diligent and continue to participate in our national survey and petition drives. It is also imperative that you continue to call your elected officials and let them know how important these issues are to you.

Thank you for your continued support of The Seniors Coalition, and I look forward to working on your behalf during the 115th Congress.

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

Congratulations to Joseph and Charlyn Bridges shown here “tripping the light fantastic” recently to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The Seniors Coalition and our members are blessed to have Dr. Bridges’ leadership and guidance in our quest to protect the rights of senior citizens.
able to do it alone, we will need the full participation of our membership to ensure passage.”

Make sure and stay active in The Seniors Coalition’s survey and petition drives. Call your elected officials, talk to your friends and family, fellow church members, and let them know how important this bill is to all senior citizens. ▲

Legislative Report from Executive Director Sean Ferritor

As we continue to navigate through the initial onslaught of legislation being introduced in the 115th Congress, I want to remind all Seniors Coalition members of the importance of your continued participation in our grassroots activities. With your signed petitions and survey results our success on Capitol Hill improves greatly.

As mentioned in the lead story, Congressman Eliot Engel has reintroduced H.R. 991, The Guaranteed 3% CoLA Bill of 2017, and once again enlisted the help of The Seniors Coalition to gain cosponsors in the House of Representatives. We are also working with several House and Senate staffs to find an original sponsor for an Anti-Totalization bill, as well as a Lock-Box bill in the Senate.

So, once again, I am calling on all Seniors Coalition members to stay especially diligent over the course of the 115th Congress. Together, we have a chance to make a tremendous difference in many aspects of senior citizens’ lives.

That’s all for this month. If you have any questions or comments about our legislative or grassroots lobbying efforts, please contact me directly at 202-261-3594. ▲

Join the TSC Email List

As more and more seniors go online, The Seniors Coalition is expanding our member communication and grassroots lobbying to the Internet. So, if you have access to the Internet, be sure to subscribe to TSC’s email list. As a subscriber you will receive timely information about the issues being debated in Congress, reports on TSC’s grassroots activities, and the online version of The Senior Class!

To subscribe, simply visit www.senior.org

Join the petition drive! Do your part to help pass a fair and equitable Cost of Living Adjustment by signing your 2017 Guaranteed 3% CoLA petition and returning it to the Seniors Coalition for delivery to Capitol Hill.
Cost of Groceries Surging as Seniors Continue to Receive Meager Cost of Living Adjustments

The cost of groceries continues to escalate, and seniors continue to get the short end of the stick when it comes to their annual Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA). According to a recent analysis by WallStreet24/7.com, the price of typical grocery items has increased by 28 percent since 2006.

“If you look back through the entire history of the Cost of Living Adjustments, the average annual increase in benefits is 3.9%, and that’s with several recent years where either no CoLA was given at all, or whatever minimal raise that was given was offset by higher Medicare premiums,” states President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Some of the numbers from this report, based on the Consumer Price Index and Labor Bureau statistics, will stun senior citizens. This report proves that not only has the cost of the goods and services seniors use risen by at least 28% over the last ten years, but if you break down the top twenty, like the price of electricity or prescription drugs, most goods have risen closer to forty percent.”

That’s why it’s more important than ever for ALL Seniors Coalition members and supporters to make sure and continue to stay engaged in our battle for a guaranteed 3% CoLA. Sign our online petition at TSC@SENIOR.ORG, tell your friends and neighbors to do the same. It is time to get seniors the fair and equitable CoLA they deserve, and together we can achieve that goal. ▲