Social Security Fraud Rampant in Puerto Rico

United States Congressman Sam Johnson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, recently held a hearing on Social Security fraud in Puerto Rico. More specifically, the hearing was on a scheme to defraud the Social Security Disability Insurance program out of millions of dollars using an ex-Social Security employee and a couple of rogue doctors.

Sean Ferritor, The Seniors Coalition’s Executive Director, was in legislative representation.

Executive Director Sean Ferritor at the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. The Seniors Coalition regularly monitors and attends relevant hearings on Capitol Hill as one way of protecting the interests of TSC’s members and supporters.

Legislative Team Reflects on 2013, Hits the Ground Running in 2014

This past year has been a very productive year for The Seniors Coalition. In addition to expanding our membership and our presence on Capitol Hill, TSC has had an impact on several inside-the-beltway decisions.

The Seniors Coalition was pleased that Congress heeded its advice to include a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (CoLA) for Social Security beneficiaries in the 2014 budget, even if it was a paltry 1.5% increase. However, Seniors Coalition brass remains dismayed at the fact that Congress still does not realize how important the CoLA is for seniors across the nation.

In 2013, TSC worked closely with Congressman Eliot Engel’s staff to garner support for H.R. 1585, The Guaranteed 3% CoLA Act, and continues to work with Congressman Engel in 2014. To date TSC has received 236,019 signed petitions in favor of a guaranteed 3% CoLA from supporters all over the country and expects that number to grow exponentially.

Furthermore, Executive Director Sean Ferritor this past year created great working relationships with other Congressmen and Senators including Senator David Vitter, a strong defender of senior

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for your continued support of The Seniors Coalition. 2013 was a contentious year here on Capitol Hill, filled with a government shutdown and an all-out assault on Social Security by the current administration.

President Obama continues to push for a change in the way your Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments are calculated, and as usual his plan to save money falls directly on the backs of the elderly. I won’t stand by idly and let this happen, but I need your help to stand up to the White House with me.

I am urging all Seniors Coalition members to stay especially diligent in 2014 by fully participating in our petition drives as well as our public opinion and legislative surveys. Our legislative team will continue to flood Capitol Hill with your signed petitions and surveys to make sure each and every one of your voices is heard.

Let’s ring in the New Year together and let the politicians in Washington know that seniors will no longer continue to be the whipping post for President Obama’s Administration, or his liberal cronies in Congress.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Social Security Fraud Rampant in Puerto Rico

attendance and was appalled at the brazen level of deceit and criminal activities aimed at senior citizens and the disabled. “I was really surprised at the level of this scheme, as were the members of the Subcommittee on Social Security,” Ferritor states. “One disgruntled employee and a couple of dishonest doctors is all it takes to bilk the Social Security Administration out of millions of dollars, millions that should be going to senior citizens who have spent a lifetime paying into Social Security, and who depend on that money to survive”, Ferritor continued.

Witnesses for the hearing included The Honorable Patrick O’Carroll, Jr., Inspector General, Social Security Administration, as well as Ms. Beatrice Disman, Regional Commissioner, New York Region Social Security Administration.

Confounded Congressmen continually quizzed the witnesses on how this stolen money would be refunded and what methods would be used to make sure that taxpayer funds would be recouped by the Social Security Administration.

Patrick O’Carroll and Beatrice Disman continually dodged questions on exactly how much money was fraudulently obtained and how that money would be retrieved. When asked point blank what methods they would use to secure the stolen funds, Ms. Disman simply responded, “We will request that it be returned.” Obviously this answer did not go over well with the members of the subcommittee.

The Seniors Coalition continues to work closely with our contacts on Congressman Johnson’s Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, who tell TSC that the final report on this issue will be out in late January.

“I applaud the work that Chairman Johnson and his Committee are doing to try and fix the Social Security System,” Ferritor continued. “The Seniors Coalition has been working for 25 years now towards the same goal, and our members are counting on us to deliver.”

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

The holiday recess is over and it’s time to get back to work here at The Seniors Coalition.

2014 will bring many battles that will be of great interest to senior citizens. One of the most important and potentially dangerous involves a change in the way your annual cost of living adjustments are calculated. The President’s plan is to implement the change in his 2014 budget and enact the Chained CPI method of calculating inflation in January of 2015.

Now, you may hear from the President and his liberal cohorts that this decrease in your benefits will be minimal, some saying only three dollars a month less in benefits for current social security beneficiaries in 2015. What they won’t tell you is that every subsequent year that decreased number in your benefits will rise. In 8 short years your benefits will have decreased by over 3%, which is a staggering amount to seniors who rely solely on Social Security to survive.

That’s where you and I can work together to stop the President in his tracks. The Seniors Coalition currently has 236,019 signed petitions in favor of Congressman Engel’s Guaranteed 3% CoLA bill, but we need more. I am calling on all Seniors Coalition members to join us in the battle to protect your Social Security benefits by joining our national petition drive in the “Action Center” on our website at www.senior.org, or by responding to our Seniors Coalition Guaranteed 3% CoLA petition drive by mail. Together we can stop this disastrous idea before it gains any political traction!

That’s all for this month. 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.
The Senior Class’s Monthly Mailbag

God has used you in a special way to help the seniors and disabled, for which I am thankful. We also need God and The Seniors Coalition to represent us against the Obama Administration and those in Congress who dislike seniors. Thank you, be blessed.”

Rev. Harry Wigmore, III, Smithfield, North Carolina

“I would like to see our government use common sense like ‘spending within their means’ like we have to. We didn’t work all our lives for our leaders to spend frivolously. God Bless.”

Mr. Frank J. Pribilovich, Jr. Burbank, California

“Dear Dr. Bridges, of course I am disgusted at the way Congress has squandered Social Security contributions and substituted worthless IOU’s for them. I wish you the very best.”

Miss Mary Carmichael, Bogart, Georgia

“Dear Dr. Joe Bridges, I hope this finds you and your family well and in good spirits. Thank you very much for all the good you do.”

Herman C. Hoffman, Jr. Martinsburg, West Virginia

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:

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