The Seniors Coalition recently attended a hearing held by the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce and Energy, Subcommittee on Health, to discuss the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed 700-page rule change to Medicare, specifically the Part D Prescription Drug Plan. Jonathan Blum, the Principal Deputy Administrator, testified at the hearing on behalf of CMS and was peppered by both sides of the aisle on why CMS would propose changes to arguably the most successful plan in the history of Medicare.

The Medicare Part D drug program is a rarity in today’s volatile health care landscape, a program that is actually effective for its beneficiaries and cost-friendly to the American taxpayers. The preferred pharmacy networks alone will save the U.S. Government $870 million in continued on page 3

The Senior Coalition’s Executive Director Sean Ferritor thanks Congressman Michael Burgess, Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, for his efforts to stop the proposed CMS rule change to Medicare Part D.

The Seniors Coalition Represents Its Senior Citizen Supporters at the Annual Conservative Political Action Conference 2014

The Seniors Coalition’s Executive Director Sean Ferritor and Assistant Director Owen Thomas attended this year’s Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). Representing seniors’ interests, Sean and Owen used this opportunity to branch out to conservative leaders and the media to build long lasting partnerships. CPAC proved to be a great avenue to meet with coalition partners and individuals in the center-right movement that are stalwart defenders of senior citizens.

Speaking with senior strategists and conservative organizations, Executive Director Sean Ferritor explained The Seniors Coalition’s mission and the issues seniors from across the country are talking about. “The Seniors Coalition was well received this year at CPAC,” explains Sean. “Everyone I spoke with agreed that The Seniors Coalition is a powerful ally and thanked continued page 2
Dear Friend,

I want to thank you for your support and hard work fighting the President’s proposed plan to change the way your Cost of Living Adjustments (CoLAs) are calculated. To date, The Seniors Coalition has 236,109 signed petitions in favor of a guaranteed 3% annual CoLA.

Thanks to your help, the President has taken his Chained CPI method of calculating inflation out of his 2014 Budget Proposal. However, key people in his Administration continue to push the idea and have stated that this idea is not dead, simply being shelved until they can drum up more support from the liberal left. Thankfully, you and I have 2,790,800 members and supporters to stand with us to fight against the constant attack on seniors by the current Administration.

You should have received by now a copy of The Seniors Coalition’s 2014 Guaranteed 3% CoLA petition. I am urging all TSC members to stay diligent and continue to participate in this critical petition drive to help you receive the proper benefits you were promised from the Federal Government for a lifetime of hard work.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Seniors Coalition Members Help Thwart CMS Changes to Medicare Part D

2014, and a projected $9.3 billion over the next decade according to the Milliman Medical Index. As the Senate Finance Committee letter on CMS Part D Regulations states, Part D has exceeded budgetary expectations set forth by the Congressional Budget Office repeatedly. This has reduced the program’s cost, which is now roughly 45% below initial projections.

“CMS was trying to limit seniors’ choices and eliminate options simply because they thought seniors were getting confused by all the plans they have to choose from” states TSC President and CEO Joseph Bridges. “I would contend that the ‘government knows best’ theory is simply misguided and threatens the very tenet that made this country so great, freedom of choice. Thankfully our members and supporters were savvy enough to see through yet another cash grab by the Federal Government, and they took action by calling their elected officials to demand that Medicare Part D be left alone!”

The Seniors Coalition sent a letter to CMS opposing the proposed changes along with 350 similar organizations, and sent press releases to all the major news outlets backing H.R. 4160, “The Keep Your Promise to Seniors Act of 2014.” “Thanks in part to your phone calls to Congress, CMS eventually came to its senses and tabled the proposed changes to your Medicare Part D Plan,” continued Bridges. “This should be a clear sign to Capitol Hill that grassroots campaigns are still a powerful voice in Washington, DC.”

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

There have been two major victories for seniors recently, and it’s largely thanks to your support.

The President has come to his senses and decided to shelve his plan to alter the way your Cost of Living Adjustments are calculated, the Chained CPI method. While this is simply a temporary delay, it is most certainly a victory for seniors, and you are a major part of that victory. The Seniors Coalition currently has 236,019 signed petitions in favor of a minimum 3% CoLA increase annually, and are gathering more every day.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has also listened to the American public and dropped its 700-page rule change to your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan. Again, while a victory for seniors, this plan is also being delayed. There is still a lot of work to do to permanently protect the most successful plan in Medicare over the last twenty years, a plan that actually works great for its beneficiaries and saves the American taxpayers money.

I am calling on all Seniors Coalition members to continue to monitor our website and participate in our petition drives. The last two months have proven that grassroots politics is alive and well and it couldn’t be accomplished without engaged members like you.

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.
The Senior Coalition’s 2014 Legislative Survey Results Will Be Tallied Soon

The Senior Coalition recently started compiling the results from its 2014 National Survey and will present the results to Congress and national media outlets. This is the most important survey of the year because it asks seniors in all 50 states to tell The Senior Coalition what issues are most important and how seniors feel about the job The Senior Coalition is doing.

“This incredibly important survey tells us how we need to focus our efforts and if we are representing seniors across the country to the best of our ability,” explains President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Representing your interests in Washington, D.C. is impossible if all we do is guess, as many organizations do. I strongly believe that the only way to know if we are on track is by asking you, and that’s what we did! I personally want to thank each and every supporter who took the time to fill out their survey and support our mission.”

The results of this national survey will be available soon and they will be sent along with a press release to Congress and top national news outlets. “It is imperative that we get these results to Congress and as many potential supporters via the media as possible,” explains Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “I am confident that the results will undeniably prove that The Senior Coalition represents the best interests of its 2,790,800 supporters nationwide.” ▲

Help The Senior Coalition Protect You and Your Rights!

The Senior 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 Senior 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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