TSC Works Capitol Hill During Budget Drama

The Seniors Coalition worked overtime during the recent lame duck session of Congress to prevent the politicians from doing any more harm to the nation’s economy or to America’s seniors.

Unfortunately, as part of a last-minute budget deal between the President and House Republican leaders, the hated Death Tax was extended. However, schemes to undermine Social Security and Medicare were not implemented.

“Despite the Death Tax debacle, I think we did as well as we could,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Executive Director Sean Ferritor seemed to live down on Capitol Hill during the lame duck session, and our members really pounded the politicians with petitions, calls and faxes. It could have been much worse for seniors.”

The Death Tax was set to soar at the beginning of the year when a whole series of tax cuts expired. TSC spent much of 2012 working against that deadline, trying to pass a separate bill to completely abolish the tax. However, Democrats’ commitment to “soaking the rich” as well as Republicans’ unwillingness to fight hard resulted in the Death Tax remaining in effect.

Other issues, like changing the way inflation is figured in a way that will cut Social Security CoLAs, as well as changes to Medicare or the way retirement savings accounts are taxed, may not be resolved until later this year when the debt ceiling increase is debated.

“Congress and the President have done some damage,” explains Sean Ferritor. “But they’ve effectively just kicked the budget can down the road. In February there could be some real fireworks so I hope our members are prepared to keep fighting.”

Ferritor spent much of De-

Doctors Revolt over Medicare Cuts

As predicted, more and more doctors have to resort to desperate measures to avoid having to drop Medicare patients. Recently, a worried TSC supporter sent in a copy of a flyer his doctor was distributing to all his patients, begging them to lobby Congress to prevent steep Medicare reimbursement cuts from going into effect on January 1st.

The flyer notes that these cuts could be as large as 30% and would drastically affect the ability of physicians to care for seniors.

“This flyer points out the terrible problem Medicare is facing. The politicians have to be badgered into passing ‘doc fixes’ to Medicare every year to prevent these massive automatic cuts from taking place,” explains TSC Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “Doctors who see Medicare patients live in fear that...
Dear Friend,

Another year is over and The Seniors Coalition is still fighting for you.

However, this year was different. Despite all the nastiness in Washington. Despite the Administration’s “War on Seniors.” Despite everything that is going wrong with America, I truly believe we are making real progress.

Over this past year TSC has added members. We’ve expanded our grassroots programs. We built more relationships with other pro-limited government groups.

We are stronger than ever. And we owe it all to great friends and supporters like you.

The Seniors Coalition isn’t really as much an “organization” as it is an alliance. An alliance of senior citizens who are fed up with Washington and want nothing more than for the politicians to finally listen to them and to do what is right for America.

Every success we have and every battle we win is because YOU have supported us with your financial contributions, with your phone calls to Congress and with all the petitions and surveys you sign and complete.

The Seniors Coalition is the luckiest organization in America.

Thank you and happy New Year!

Keep fighting!

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

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Doctors Revolt over Medicare Cuts

Doctors shouldn’t have to beg their patients to lobby Congress in order to get paid.”

The Seniors Coalition has long-supported reforming Medicare in a way that reduces both the added cost and added regulatory burden of allowing government to control exactly how Medicare dollars are spent. “We believe senior citizens should have more choices in Medicare. They should have the freedom to choose their doctors and the type of Medicare coverage they get, free of political meddling,” Ferritor explains. “Sort of like private insurance, paid for with Medicare dollars. Such a plan would put Medicare on a more stable financial footing while eliminating this ‘doc fix’ lunacy and the ever present threat of doctors being forced to stop seeing Medicare patients.”

TO OUR VALUED PATIENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN.

MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENTS TO YOUR DOCTORS

WILL BE CUT 30% January 1, 2013.

THIS WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE and OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE CARE YOU DESERVE.

CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN TODAY TO VOTE TO REPEAL THE MEDICARE CUTS.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO OBTAIN QUALITY MEDICAL CARE.

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This flyer was provided by a TSC supporter who picked it up from his physician’s office. More and more doctors will abandon Medicare like this if the program isn’t massively reformed.
TSC Works Capitol Hill During Budget Drama

december canvassing Congressional offices, working the phones and meeting with staff members of key House members. “Sean has represented The Seniors Coalition very well under difficult and stressful circumstances,” adds Bridges. “This is a tough environment for us because the politicians are making so many back room deals and are so willing to sell out their own constituents.”

The Death Tax is a case in point. That tax is very unpopular, raises very little money for the federal government and its repeal is supported by a majority of members of the House. Yet, House Speaker John Boehner was more than willing to cut a deal with President Obama and keep the Death Tax in effect.

“You never know what professional politicians are going to,” Ferritor explains. “That’s why organizations like TSC are so important. Our job is to keep an eye on the politicians so our members can hold them to account.”

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

We’ve survived the fiscal cliff showdown. But not without taking our lumps.

As the report on page one of this month’s newsletter explains, the Death Tax is still very much alive thanks to a last minute deal between Republican “leaders” and Barack Obama.

A great many of our members are furious, and rightfully so. We worked hard to finally abolish the Death Tax, we had the votes in the House to get rid of it, yet the Death Tax still lives on.

For the past several months during some regular meetings I attend with other conservative groups and leaders, there was a growing sense of unease about what would happen with the Death Tax as we approached the end of the year. And, unfortunately, our fears were well founded.

We will, of course, continue to fight to abolish the Death Tax. However, it’s clear going forward we are going to have to convince BOTH Republicans and Democrats that the Federal Government should not profit from the deaths of its citizens!

Regarding other legislative issues, we are going to have to remain on our toes as “entitlement and tax reform” proposals start to be tossed around this winter and spring. Politicians come up with all kinds of hare-brained schemes when they think it is time to “reform” something. We’ll keep you posted on this issue.

Also, coming up will be our annual TSC Legislative Survey. You should receive this important document in the mail in the near future. Please be sure to fill it out so that we here at The Seniors Coalition know exactly what issues you want us to focus on.

Finally, I’ll be meeting again soon with Senator David Vitter to discuss the new 113th Congress and to present him with more Social Security petitions signed by our members.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about our legislative or grassroots lobbying programs, please feel free to give me a call at 202-261-3594.
Independent Audit Again Reports Coalition Is Frugal and in Sound Financial Shape

The annual independent audit of The Senior Class Coalition’s finances has been completed, and, as usual the class has passed the audit with flying colors. Or, more precisely in accounting terms, The Coalition has received a “clean audit.”

For the 2011 fiscal year, 70% of TSC’s expenditures went to pay for program expenses. That includes our petition campaigns, newsletters, lobbying efforts and the like. Only 30% was spent on combined fundraising or overhead expenses. Considering that the Coalition did not receive any large grants or contributions from industry or trade association groups and 100% of contributions came from members and grassroots supporters, that’s a very solid ratio,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges.

“While we are always striving to be more efficient, I’m happy with our current financial position and how we’ve spent our members’ and donors’ money.”

TSC still maintains a very, very lean staff and does not spend exorbitant amounts on office space like many groups do. “We are always cognizant that our supporters and members don’t have much money and that their investment in TSC is meant to help us advance their interests,” Bridges explains. “We don’t hold big parties or send our staff on junkets all over the country. We just mind our pennies and fight hard every day. That’s probably why we’ve been around for such a long time!”

Medicare: Support reintroduction of the Congressional Health Care for Seniors Act to reform Medicare by allowing seniors to enroll in the same health care plan as Members of Congress.

Social Security: Continue to push vigorously for passage of the Social Security Lock Box. TSC is still collecting petitions and making personal visits to lobby in favor of this bill.

Death Tax Repeal: Support 100% repeal of this out-dated law. TSC will coordinate with other conservative groups and Members of Congress.

CoLA Reform: Support reintroduction of the Guaranteed 3% CoLA for Seniors Act and continue collecting petitions in support of the CPI for Seniors Act, to favorably reform the way CoLAs are computed.


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