CoLA Petitions to Be Delivered to Congress in Support of Rep. Engel’s Social Security Bill

This month The Seniors Coalition is preparing to deliver 232,333 petition signatures supporting Social Security CoLA reform to the office of U.S. Representative Eliot Engel, who is sponsoring a measure to guarantee senior citizens an automatic 3% annual CoLA. The signatures were gathered as part of TSC’s ongoing CoLA reform campaign.

“We support H.R. 1586 because this bill is the best way to finally get the Social Security CoLA fixed and to make sure retirees get a fair CoLA,” says Executive Director Sean Ferritor, who plans to personally deliver the petitions. “These petitions came directly from TSC supporters who are fed up with the federal government playing games with their benefits.”

During the Obama Administration Social Security CoLAs have been either scaled back or eliminated entirely sparking a massive backlash from senior citizens. “The price of goods and services that seniors regularly pay for has been going up, but CoLAs haven’t been keeping pace,” Ferritor explains. “That’s why CoLA reform is one of our most important issues.”

Conservative Republican Study Committee Asks TSC for Support Passing H.R. 2009

The Republican Study Committee, the official House caucus that represents conservatives, recently asked The Seniors Coalition to help pass H.R. 2009, a measure that will prohibit the IRS from enforcing ObamaCare. Coalition Executive Director, Sean Ferritor, of course, enthusiastically agreed.

“This bill is a key step toward saving the country from ObamaCare,” Ferritor explained. “And the members of the House Study Committee really want seniors to weigh in and help pass this measure. So that is exactly what we are going to do.”

H.R. 2009, called “The Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013,” was proposed by U.S. Representative Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA) in the wake of the IRS political harassment scandal. Under ObamaCare, the IRS is charged with enforcing much of the controversy.

executive director sean ferritor prepares a box of signed petitions for delivery.

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Dear Friend,

I hope you are having a great summer and it’s not too hot where you are!

In Washington, The Seniors Coalition is really turning up the heat on the politicians. As you will read in this month’s edition of The Senior Class, we have petitions going up to Capitol Hill, we are working with the most important organizations in the Congress, and we are preparing testimony for September’s Ways and Means Committee hearings.

I’ve never seen so much activity at TSC.

And it’s all thanks to members like you.

YOU are what makes The Seniors Coalition so organized and effective. Your annual dues and your contributions are what make these petition drives and other activities possible.

Please keep that in mind when you receive your 2014 membership renewal packets, which recently went out in the mail.

This membership renewal drive will help us continue to maintain and expand our grassroots campaign activities. And as 2014 is an election year, the politicians will be especially wary of crossing us as long as we have the funds to continue bombarding them with petitions and surveys!

So, keep enjoying your summer. And please renew your TSC membership.

Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
CoLA Petitions to Be Delivered to Congress in Support of Rep. Engel’s Social Security Bill

Tell Us Why TSC Is Important to You

Ferritor has been working with Congressman Engel’s staff to push this bill forward. Engel is a Democrat but has been very helpful and enthusiastic about working with TSC. “The Seniors Coalition is not a partisan group. Our job is to represent senior citizens. We don’t care who proposes good legislation. If you are trying to help seniors, we’re behind you,” he says.

The CoLA petition campaign is part of TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges’ million petition challenge. Dr. Bridges wants Coalition supporters to help the organization collect one million petitions like the 232,333 being delivered next month. “I am thrilled that so many of our supporters are participating in this campaign,” Bridges said recently. “No other seniors group in the nation is working this issue as hard or as efficiently. If we can keep the heat on Congress, we’ll get CoLA reform and America’s senior citizens will be able to rest much easier.”

Supporters who wish to sign the CoLA petition may do by visiting www.senior.org. ▲

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

The big legislative news this month is the renewed focus on ObamaCare.

Each week I attend a meeting of the top conservative organizations in the nation and lately the hated health care law has dominated the discussion.

In the House we are supporting drives to both completely defund ObamaCare through the annual spending bill, and to strip the IRS of its powers to enforce it. The IRS bill, H.R. 2009, will probably get a vote on the House floor sometime in very early August. Fingers crossed we can get it passed!

In the Senate, things are rough. John McCain, Lindsey Graham and the rest of the go-along and to heck with the American people “Republicans” are actually blocking an effort to defund ObamaCare. It’s ridiculous!

TSC is making it known that seniors want this law gone. In our 2013 Legislative Survey, 99% of our members support Obamacare repeal, and the other 1% were undecided! Seniors want the Medicare cuts restored and they won’t sit idly by while “Republicans” side with Barack Obama. However, the instinct to do nothing and to try to curry favor with the White House is very, very strong. So, during August, when all the Senators are back home, be sure to try to visit your Senators’ offices or see them at a local event or town hall meeting. Tell them to defund ObamaCare.

That’s all for this month. 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. ▲
TSC to Provide Testimony to House Ways and Means Committee

The staff of the House Ways and Means Committee has sought out The Seniors Coalition to provide testimony about inflation and the controversial “Chained Consumer Price Index” or “Chained CPI” proposal. Chained CPI is a new way to compute inflation that will lead to even further cuts in Social Security CoLAs as well as higher taxes on many Americans. TSC opposes it.

The Committee on Ways and Means is the body charged with overseeing the tax code, and its members want testimony from experts on inflation and how it pertains to senior citizens as it considers how it might reform the tax code. Many politicians believe that adopting the Chained CPI is an easy way to both raise taxes and cut Social Security benefits.

“It’s always an honor to be asked to provide testimony to Congress,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “This Chained CPI idea is very, very bad for seniors and all Americans, so we are not going to hold anything back next month. Changing how the government computes inflation using this new formula will lead to reduced CoLAs and income tax bracket creep. We can’t stand for this. And that’s what we are going to tell Congress.”

The Coalition’s testimony will be posted at www.senior.org on the day of the hearing.

Early 2014 Membership Renewal Now Underway

TSC’s 2014 membership drive is now underway. By renewing your membership now, you can help TSC save much needed funds. Each member who renews their membership early frees up money for grassroots lobbying programs that would otherwise be spent on reminder notices. Your renewal package should arrive in your mailbox in July. Please read it carefully and then return the enclosed membership renewal form before you get busy and forget.