The Seniors Coalition Pushes for Reintroduction of 3% CoLA Bill

The Seniors Coalition is pushing hard to have the Guaranteed 3% CoLA for Seniors Act reintroduced in the 113th Congress.

The measure, originally drafted by Democrat U.S. Representative Eliot Engel from New York for the 112th Congress, will solve the problem of seniors being cheated out of a fair and reasonable cost-of-living-increase each year. However, it must first be reintroduced in this session of Congress.

“CoLA reform is a massive issue for our members,” explains Coalition President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Over the past number of years seniors have been ripped off by the Obama Administration. They’ve either received tiny annual increases or no CoLAs at all. That’s why we have been supporting this measure and are working overtime to convince Congressman Engel to reintroduce it.”

TSC Executive Director Sean Ferritor has been in touch with Engel’s office and is optimistic the bill will eventually be reintroduced. “I think when the Congressman understands that TSC supports his bill, Representative Engel will move forward,” Ferritor says.

It’s unusual for a free-market, limited-government organization like The Seniors Coalition to support a bill proposed by one of Congress’ more liberal members.

TSC Works Largest Conference of Conservatives

Executive Director Sean Ferritor and other representatives of The Seniors Coalition worked the Conservative Political Action Conference in March promoting TSC’s programs, meeting with allied organizations and sharing grassroots tactics and strategies.

CPAC, as the forty year-old conference is known, is one of the most famous and influential gatherings of conservative activists and right of center organizations.

“Part of my job is to reach out and find political allies among other groups and collections of activists,” explains Ferritor. “And CPAC is an excellent place to do that.”

“I ran into Congressman Andy Harris from Maryland, who is a good friend of The Seniors Coalition, we talked to a number of senior citizens from across the county, and attended a number of good meetings where conservative activists shared tips and tactics about how to better sell our limited government message,” Ferritor says. Continued on page 2

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Dear Friend,

I don’t think I need to tell you, but Washington, D.C. is a real mess.

Executive Director Sean Ferritor this month gives you a brief overview of how much the politicians hate having to listen to ordinary Americans. Please read his legislative report.

But I want to add my two cents as well.

These politicians and that egomaniac in the White House need to be cut down to size. Americans work too long and too hard to be treated with such contempt by these politicians. These D.C. clowns refuse to balance the budget, they are stealing our retirement money by raiding Social Security, they are destroying our health care system, and, to top it all off, they want to profit from our deaths through the estate tax!

This year TSC is going to redouble our efforts to make sure the politicians listen to us. We are going to turn up the grassroots heat on these out-of-touch bozos.

We have already launched one of the largest membership recruitment drives in Seniors Coalition history and in the coming months we’ll ask you to sign more petitions and complete more surveys than ever.

You see, my theory is the more the politicians try to avoid hearing us, the louder we have to scream.

Let’s make some noise!

Thanks for being part of the TSC team.

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Coalition Upgrades Website to Better Serve Members

The Seniors Coalition is upgrading its website even further in order to better serve senior cyber activists.

Counters are being added to every online petition in the Senior.org Action Center so that visitors can see in real time how many people have signed a particular petition. This comes in particularly handy for the three petition campaigns that are part of Dr. Joseph Bridges “Million Petition Challenge.”

TSC staffers are also adding more photos practically every week chronicling Coalition activities.

Additionally a new online donation system has been installed on the website which allows members to more easily pay membership dues, make individual donations to help fund TSC’s grassroots lobbying campaigns or join the Coalition’s monthly giving program.

Please visit www.senior.org!

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However, Bridges says the Coalition will work with anyone who understands the plight of America’s seniors. “We may virtually never agree with Congressman Engel and the Guaranteed 3% CoLA bill is far from perfect,” Bridges admits, “but this bill is a viable way of protecting seniors from this greedy government. Senior citizens who have paid so much into Social Security shouldn’t be forced to stand by and watch as inflation eats away at their retirement funds. This guaranteed CoLA is fair and necessary.”

Support for CoLA reform is one of Dr. Bridges “Million Petition Challenge” issues. He is challenging TSC members to sign one million petitions supporting fixing the CoLA. To date approximately 140,000 Americans have signed the petition.

“We are still pretty far from our million petition goal,” Bridges says. “But I know and trust our supporters and they will get us to that goal. CoLA reform is so important to them. And as long as it is a major deal for our members, it will be a major issue for The Seniors Coalition. We are going to get this 3% Guaranteed CoLA bill reintroduced and ultimately passed! ▲

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
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036
Or by email to: tsc@senior.org
Or call Sean at 202-261-3594

TSC Opposes Largest Ever Tax Hike in Virginia – Measure hits seniors hardest

The Seniors Coalition opposed in the strongest possible terms Virginia Republican Governor Bob McDonnell’s bipartisan tax increase plan and lobbied state legislators to vote NO on the scheme. Unfortunately the plan was ultimately passed and signed into law. It increased the state’s sales tax by 20% in the most populous areas of Virginia and makes it even harder for seniors on a fixed income to make ends meet. It jacks up the tax on new cars by 25%, putting an already struggling automotive industry in the crosshairs of greedy politicians. It also increases the tax on the sale of a house in Northern Virginia by an incredible 40 cents per 100 dollars. That is $1,600 on the sale of a common $400,000 house! Virginia’s seniors and the Old Dominion’s economy will pay a terrible price because of this tax hike.
Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

I have been working Capitol Hill pretty hard this month. Our allies in Senator David Vitter’s office are being a great help as we fight to protect Social Security, especially.

However, it’s becoming increasingly difficult for ordinary people to lobby their elected officials. And our jobs here at TSC are harder than ever.

In the Senate, Harry Reid has instituted a new rule that makes it more difficult for grassroots groups to physically deliver large numbers of petitions to all the Senate offices. It’s pretty clear that he and many of his left-wing allies don’t want to have to be bothered by ordinary Americans.

I won’t get into all the details of the crazy hoops we now have to go through to make sure your voice gets heard in the Senate, but suffice it to say it is tough. Many organizations will stop delivering petitions altogether.

But not The Seniors Coalition! Rest assured that there is no legal way for Harry Reid or any other politician to stop us from lobbying them. Your signed petitions will be delivered to Congress no matter what.

I still feel that nothing beats delivering huge stacks of petitions to a Senate office to get the attention of a politician.

So, please keep up the good work. Keep signing and returning your petitions. Keep visiting our website. And we will keep raising Cain on Capitol Hill!

That’s all for this month.

As always, 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. ▲

For more information, visit our website at: www.senior.org

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

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