Coalition Preps for Lame Duck Session of Congress

While the upcoming election has preoccupied most Americans, The Seniors Coalition is preparing for what could be a phenomenally contentious lame duck session of Congress this November and December.

A lame duck session is when an outgoing Congress convenes immediately after an election in order to consider legislation it didn’t vote on during the year. Politicians who were thrown out of office by the voters can vote however they please,

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TSC Launches Ad Campaign

The Seniors Coalition has launched an online advertising campaign designed to educate senior citizens on the crucial issues affecting them this campaign season. The ads cover Social Security CoLAs and Medicare reform. They are designed to correct some serious misrepresentations being made by the liberals on these issues as well as mobilize senior citizens to lobby their elected representatives.

“These ads are specifically targeting senior citizens who live in so-called swing states like Florida and Ohio,” explains Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “The left-wing media and a lot of liberal politicians are spreading the lie that both Social Security and Medicare are fine and that any attempt to reform these programs is the same as destroying

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Dear Friend,

I have no idea who our next President will be.

But I do know that no matter who is elected next month The Seniors Coalition will have its work cut out for it.

As Executive Director Sean Ferritor explains in this month’s legislative report, we are struggling with both Democrats and Republicans over a whole host of issues. Too many of the politicians on Capitol Hill simply don’t listen to their constituents. And it seems that they especially don’t want to hear what senior citizens have to say.

Republicans should be pushing hard for a repeal of the Death Tax. Yet, they are still dragging their feet and making up excuses for why they aren’t abolishing this hated levy.

And Democrats are still determined to destroy Medicare and preserve the ObamaCare monstrosity. They won’t listen to reason. I’m convinced they hold senior citizens in contempt. No one who would willingly allow Medicare to go bankrupt cares about us. And that is exactly what the liberals are doing by refusing to reform this critical program.

It’s quite clear to me that TSC and the work we do is actually more important today than it has ever been. Someone has to speak up for America’s seniors. Someone has to lead the fight.

Here at The Seniors Coalition we are proud to represent America’s greatest generation, and you can rest assured that we will never give up and we will never, ever surrender. We been fighting for nearly 25 years and we’ll keep fighting for as long as it takes.

Keep fighting!

Dr. Joseph L. Bridges
President & CEO
The Seniors Coalition
Congress is out of session, but that doesn’t mean nothing is happening on Capitol Hill. Far from it.

In fact, legislation-wise, TSC is busier than ever, working with our allies on the Hill and at other right-of-center organizations.

As I’ve explained before, each week I represent The Seniors Coalition at an off-the-record meeting of key conservative groups and leaders. We review current events, share political intelligence and plot strategy.

Two of the most discussed topics at these meetings are of direct concern to you. What will happen during the lame duck session of Congress, and the status of the Death Tax?

The lead article in this month’s Senior Class goes into some detail about how dangerous this lame duck session is, so I won’t repeat anything here. Please do read that page-one article, though.

The sad fact is, we don’t have any idea what kind of nonsense could pop up next month when Congress returns. And I subscribe to the view that when it comes to Congress, “What we don’t know CAN and WILL hurt us.” So, we are trying to prepare for anything. Please do read any mail we send you and to check the TSC website regularly in the days right after the election. I suspect that is when the politicians will spring any surprises on us and we will need your help to fight back.

On the Death Tax issue I’m really quite fed up. We’ve been working with Congressman Kevin Brady to pass his Death Tax repeal bill for some time. We’ve met with the Congressman. I’m in near constant contact with his staff. The votes are there in the House to pass Brady’s bill and eliminate this tax once and for all. However, the Republican leadership is still blocking it.

This is truly a ridiculous situation and shows exactly why the American people disapprove of Congress. In this case of the Death Tax, GOP leaders believe that pushing for its repeal will make them look like they are catering to the rich and that they will get attacked by the liberals.

Well, as I’ve said to the folks on Capitol Hill many, many times, repealing the Death Tax is popular, it doesn’t simply affect “the rich” and the liberals will attack the Republicans no matter what they do!

The death tax affects family farms and family-owned businesses. Many Americans have had to sell these assets and ruin their futures in order to pay this tax. It is just wrong.

Once the campaign season is over, maybe we’ll have better luck on this issue. There is absolutely no reason that the House can’t repeal the Death Tax during the lame duck session, and TSC will be pushing hard to make sure that finally does happen.

Now, on the issue of Social Security, we are still pushing for a Social Security lock box bill. I’m planning to deliver very shortly another huge set of petitions to our good friend, Senator David Vitter, and to talk to him about our next steps in this struggle to protect the Social Security Trust fund from Congress.

There is a great deal of political chatter about the possibility of reforming entitlement programs like Social Security. If Mitt Romney is elected President, this might be our golden opportunity to finally pass a lock box bill. I will, of course keep you informed.

Your Social Security cost-of-living increase, always a huge issue for TSC members, is about to get bigger. Our sources tell us that next year’s CoLA won’t be anywhere near big enough to cover the rise of inflation. Food, gas and medical expenses are through the roof, yet the U.S. government says inflation is in check. We have to reform this CoLA system, and in 2013 it is going to be a major issue. Our CoLA reform petition campaign will continue and we have even launched an advertising campaign on this issue. The article on page one of this newsletter has more about that.

Here in the office, TSC has a new legislative intern who is helping us research legislation and draft correspondence to Capitol Hill. We have people every single day of the week collecting and preparing petitions and surveys that are pouring in. It’s extremely busy and it will get even busier once Congress returns next month. However, rest assured that I’m never too busy to talk to our members. So, 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.
Seniors Coalition Members Enjoy Great Travel Benefits

The Seniors Coalition has signed an agreement with Wyndham Hotels so that TSC members can save an additional 10% off the “Best Available Rate” at participating locations every time they travel. Just mention The Seniors Coalition special discount ID number 67067 at time of booking to receive your discount.

Start saving now, and call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of these fine hotels.

To the right, please find the access code and toll-free numbers to make your reservation. Start using your Seniors Coalition travel benefits today, and start saving money every time you travel! ▲

TSC’s travel benefits help our members save at some of the nation’s most popular hotel and motel chains.

- AmeriHost Inn® 1-800-996-2087
- Days Inn® 1-800-268-2195
- Howard Johnson® 1-800-769-0939
- Knights Inn® 1-800-682-1071
- Ramada® 1-800-462-8035
- Super 8® 1-800-889-9706
- Travel Lodge® 1-800-545-5545
- Wingate by Wyndham® 1-800-202-8814
- Wyndham Hotels® 1-866-854-1604
- Baymont Inns® 1-800-980-1679

TSC Members Speak Out

“My pastor has been telling me I have to be a member of The Seniors Coalition for months. I trust him as much as anyone in my life so I took his advice and joined, and I couldn’t be happier. Please keep up the work you are doing for seniors.”

--Iris from Florida

“Thank you so much for all your help and your continued work to further the rights of senior citizens like me. We need someone in our corner like The Seniors Coalition to keep the politicians in Washington on their toes.”

--Jack from Arizona

“I am very supportive of the work that you are doing. Keep up the pressure on the politicians in Washington to make sure that they do the right thing, especially with the 2012 elections right around the corner.”

--Walter from Louisiana

“I have been a member of The Seniors Coalition for over 5 years and appreciate all that you do for us seniors. Please put pressure on Congress to restore our CoLAs. For some of us it can mean the difference in eating at the end of the month or having our lights on.”

--Agnes from Pennsylvania

“I am thankful over the Holidays that I am a member of The Seniors Coalition and I can’t tell you how comforting it is to know that we, as seniors, have The Seniors Coalition fighting the politicians on Capitol Hill to make sure seniors aren’t taken advantage of.”

--Dorothy from Texas
President’s Million Petition Challenge Rolls On

Petitions continue to pour into The Seniors Coalition as part of President & CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges’ “Million Petition Challenge.” Bridges last year dared TSC members to sign one million petitions supporting the Coalition’s stance on three key issues. The first is preventing illegal aliens from receiving Social Security benefits. To date supporters have signed nearly 895,000 petitions opposing the ratification of a Social Security Totalization Agreement with Mexico, which would allow illegal immigrants to collect benefits from the U.S. government.

Ferritor explains that the Coalition has been very busy collecting and preparing these petitions to send up to Capitol Hill all summer. “It’s a nonstop process. We have stacks of petitions coming and letters going out to Congressmen nearly every week on these issues.”

“I’m planning to head up to Capitol Hill to personally deliver a bunch of these petitions in the next few weeks,” Ferritor says. “I’ll be sure to report back on the response I get.”

The second petition of the challenge supports the passage of lockbox legislation that would prevent Congress from raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. Over 958,000 seniors have signed that petition.

The third campaign calls for an overhaul of the Social Security CoLA system. While only 129,030 have been signed so far, this is currently TSC’s most popular petition campaign.

“I’m absolutely thrilled at how successful this challenge has been,” remarked Dr. Joseph Bridges recently. “We are getting ready to deliver another batch of petitions to Senator David Vitter, who is fighting for the lock box and more and more CoLA petitions are coming in each day. It will take a while, but we’ll reach the one million signer mark for each of these three campaigns. No doubt about it.”

TSC’s Insurance Partner Liberty Mutual Goes the Extra-Mile for Hurricane Sandy Victims

Shortly after Hurricane Sandy had blown through in late October, Liberty Mutual contacted The Seniors Coalition requesting that we reassure our members that they were prepared to help all of their customers file any insurance claims. “Liberty Mutual is a great company, and they contacted me personally to tell me that their emergency response team was on the ground all up and down the east coast and working diligently to restore some normalcy to their customers,” says TSC Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “That’s why we’ve partnered with Liberty Mutual. They look out for their customers.”

If any TSC member needs to file a claim with Liberty Mutual, please call 1-800-2CLAIMS (800-225-2467).

Seniors Most Important Now

America’s population is changing radically and that fact will have a profound impact on America’s politics. To be sure, immigrants are changing the makeup of the United States; however, senior citizens will soon swamp every other demographic and “voting block” in the country.
Coalition Preps for Lame Duck Session

making the session particularly dangerous for taxpayers.

“We have a very detailed strategy for the lame duck,” explains TSC Executive Director Sean Ferritor. “We’ve been working overtime for quite a while, anticipating that Congress would sneak back into town after the election, and we have a detailed plan of action to protect our members’ interests and advance our agenda.”

At the top of that agenda is preventing any type of “grand bargain” between Republicans and the Obama Administration that undermines Social Security or Medicare. “Some Republicans in both the House and Senate have indicated that they are willing to cut a deal with Barack Obama and that concerns us,” Ferritor explains. “Obama has already slashed Medicare spending to pay for ObamaCare and I wouldn’t be shocked if he pressed for cuts to Social Security or imposing means testing on Americans who he considers too rich to be allowed to receive the benefits they paid for.”

Additionally Ferritor says the Coalition is working overtime behind the scenes for both a CoLA reform bill and a complete repeal of the hated Death Tax. “Both these issues are very, very important to our members,” he explains. “We’ve been working very closely with Congressman Brady on the Death Tax issue and we very well might be able to use the lame duck session to our advantage. However, Republican leaders have not been enthusiastic about eliminating the Death Tax, so we’ll have to see what happens.”

Regarding CoLA reform, TSC has been collecting petitions in support of reforming the way Social Security CoLAs are computed in order to better represent the higher prices seniors pay each year for medicine, health care and even gasoline. “We are making one last push on this issue with this Congress. We would like to at least get a vote in the House before the end of the year,” says Ferritor. “All the petitions that our members have signed certainly will help in that regard.”

Overall, however, The Seniors Coalition feels Congress is not likely to pass good legislation during the lame duck session. “I’m afraid we are going to be in for another big and nasty fight heading into the holidays,” warns Ferritor. “But we’re ready.”

Renew Your Membership for 2013 Today!

2012 is coming to a close and we need you in 2013! It’s not too late to renew your support for the nation’s most effective right-of-center senior citizens organization. Next year we’ll be battling to repeal ObamaCare, protect Social Security, reform CoLAs, and protect the rights and interests of seniors all across America.

All current members should have received a renewal packet in the mail by now. Please use it to renew your TSC membership right away. If you didn’t receive your packet or if you misplaced it, you may join TSC or renew your current membership by calling our office at 202-261-3594 or by visiting our website at www.senior.org.
TSC Launches Ad Campaign

them. These are ridiculous assertions and we are going to push back. The fact is the current Administration is actually ruining both of those programs.”

These ads direct seniors to special web pages where they can learn the truth about how the Obama Administration has effectively cut Social Security benefits by refusing to grant fair cost-of-living increases and gutting Medicare in order to pay for ObamaCare. The ads are specifically designed to appeal to senior citizens and will be visible to internet users located in key states.

“Our goal is to make sure every senior citizen voter knows the truth about what the Obama Administration has done to Social Security and Medicare before they vote in November,” Ferritor explains. “TSC doesn’t endorse candidates for elective office so these ads are purely educational. However, we feel it is critical to get this message out. Our research says that an increasing number of senior citizens are receiving their political news from the Internet, so that is where we are placing these ads.”

Ferritor notes that this campaign is one of the Coalition’s largest ad campaigns in recent years and that it is the first full-scale online advertising campaign ever undertaken by the group. “Grassroots activism and political marketing is changing, and TSC has to keep up. I believe this effort will be very successful and that we’ll be doing more of these types of campaigns in the future.”

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 please clip and return this coupon with any contribution you can afford.

[Box for $10, $15, $25, $50, $100, $250, Other $________]
### Pending Bills Before Congress of Concern to Senior Citizens

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Health Care for Seniors Act (S. 2196)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This bill reforms Medicare by allowing seniors to enroll in the same health care plan as Members of Congress and federal employees, as well as preserving the Medicare program for future generations without benefit cuts or rationing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Lock Box (S. 123 &amp; H.R. 219)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and making personal visits, lobbying in favor of these bills. Efforts to support this measure are part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death Tax Repeal (H.R. 1259, S.2242)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “YES.” The house version of this bill has 220 cosponsors, two more than what is needed for passage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2011 (H.R. 776)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions and urges all supporters to ask their Representative to vote “YES.”</td>
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N=TSC opposes ............................................................................................................. Y=TSC supports

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPI for Seniors Act of 2011 (H.R. 1086)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions in favor of CoLA reform, of which this bill is a part. This is part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act of 2011 (H.R. 787)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC is collecting petitions in favor of denying Social Security benefits to illegal aliens, and this bill is part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Totalization Agreement Reform Act of 2011 (S. 181)</td>
<td>In Committee (Y)</td>
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<tr>
<td>It restricts the President’s ability to get the U.S.-Mexico Totalization Agreement ratified. That agreement will allow illegal immigrants to receive Social Security benefits. TSC is collecting petitions in favor of this bill as part of TSC’s Million Petition Challenge</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Automatic IRA Act of 2011 (S. 1557)</td>
<td>In Committee (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This bill will lead to more government control over private retirement accounts. TSC urges its members to contact their U.S. Senators and urge them to vote “NO.”</td>
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