



Legislative Update

Maryland Federation Board Meeting
October 3, 2017

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Agenda

- **NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments**
- **The 115th Congress (2017-18)**
- **NARFE's Legislative Priorities**
- **Grassroots Engagement**
- **NARFE-PAC**
- **Questions**



Recent Legislative Accomplishments

- **Federal retirees have not paid for deficit reduction**
- **Prevention of 52% increase in Medicare Part B premiums in 2016**
- **Two-year budget deal did not impact Feds**



Recent Legislative Accomplishments

- **Flawed postal bills have not passed**
- **Extended identity theft protection for those impacted by OPM data breaches**
- **Provided substantive reforms to FLTCIP**



The 115th Congress

- **Administration proposed reorg and downsizing of workforce**
- **Administration proposed severe cuts to federal benefits**
- **Stakes are higher**
- **Maintaining current benefits should be considered a victory!**



The 115th Congress – Threats

- **Trump FY18 Budget - \$149 Billion**
 - Eliminate COLAs for FERS retirees
 - Reduce COLAs by 0.5 percent for CSRS retirees



The 115th Congress – Threats

- **Trump FY18 Budget - \$149 Billion**
 - Increase retirement contributions for FERS by 1% per year for 6 years
 - Eliminate the FERS annuity supplement
 - High-3 to high-5 for future retirees



The 115th Congress – Threats

- **Other Threats**

- Turning FEHBP into a voucher program

- Decreasing the rate of return on the TSP's G Fund



The 115th Congress – Threats

- **Other Threats**

- FEHBP premiums in retirement based on years of service
- Elimination of FERS for new hires
- A 10% reduction of the workforce



115th Congress – FY18 Budget

- **Short-term funding measure signed into law**
 - Funds government with a CR until **December 8**
 - \$15.25 billion in Hurricane Harvey aid
 - Extends the debt ceiling deadline



The 115th Congress – FY18 Budget

- **Budget process will be key driver of threats to federal benefits**
- **Dual track budget process**
 - FY18 Reconciliation tied to tax reform
 - Bipartisan agreement setting spending levels



NARFE's Legislative Priorities

- **How Serious are the Threats?**
 - Proposals are not new
 - NARFE has been successful in preventing previous attacks
 - Top congressional priorities:
 - Increase in retirement contributions
 - TSP G Fund change

NARFE is fighting for you!



NARFE Legislative Priorities

- **Postal Reform Act of 2017, H.R. 756**
 - NARFE opposes
 - Mandatory Medicare enrollment for *current* and future postal retirees
 - Precedent setting:
 - Breaks a promise
 - Changes benefits in retirement
 - Removes choice previously enjoyed
 - Stalled, for now



NARFE Legislative Priorities

- **TSP Modernization Act of 2017**
 - Expands and creates more flexible withdrawal options
 - Should reduce full transfers out of the TSP
 - Creates more options for participants
 - *Approved by Committees, awaiting floor action*



Grassroots Engagement

- **Why is Grassroots Important?**
 - NARFE members are their own best advocates
 - Grassroots efforts are critical to the success of NARFE
 - Constituent voices resonate with Congress
 - Congress can change your benefits **AT ANY TIME**



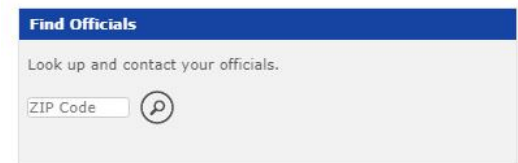
Grassroots Engagement

- **Make Your Voice Heard**
 - Call and write your members of Congress!
- **Stay Informed**
 - Keep up-to-date with NARFE legislative communications
- **Coordinate Action**
 - With your fellow NARFE members
- ***Silence = Acceptance***



Grassroots Engagement

- **NARFE's Legislative Action Center**
 - Send messages to Congress
 - Review & track legislation
 - Report your meetings & events





Grassroots Engagement

- **NARFE's Legislative Action Center**
 - Send messages to Congress
 - Read explanation of the bill
 - Customize your message
 - Press send!



Action Alert

Oppose Budget Attacks on the Federal Community

The House Budget Committee's budget resolution contains proposals that target the earned retirement benefits of the federal community. It proposes a retirement tax on federal employees and eliminating early retirement benefits. It also opens the door to reduced or... [+] **more**

Compose Your Message

Recipients

- Representative Don Beyer Jr.

Message

Subject

Body

As a constituent and member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I am angered with the unprecedented cuts aimed at the federal community included in the House Budget Committee's budget resolution. These attacks on the federal community are nothing short of an insult to the dedicated men and women who proudly serve this country.

In particular, I am upset with the committee's proposed changes to the benefits of federal workers. Increasing retirement contribution levels for no additional benefit and doing away with the Annuity Supplement, including for those



NARFE-PAC

- **What is NARFE-PAC?**
 - NARFE’s political action committee (PAC), the political arm of NARFE
- **Why does NARFE have a PAC?**
 - Access to information
 - 3rd leg of advocacy stool
 - Keeps NARFE relevant
 - Builds and strengthens relationships
 - Supports those who support us





NARFE-PAC



- **What is NARFE-PAC not?**
 - NOT partisan
 - NOT used to elect president
 - NOT a connected fund of NARFE



NARFE-PAC



- **What is NARFE-PAC not?**
 - General funds
 - Membership dues
 - Notecard campaigns
 - Calendar campaigns



NARFE-PAC

- **Factors Considered**
 - Support of NARFE issues
 - Federation recommendation
 - Influence of legislator
 - Competitiveness of race
 - Overall NARFE-PAC budget





NARFE-PAC 2015-16 Election Cycle

Goals

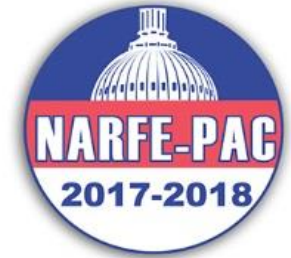
- Raise **\$1 million**
- Disburse **\$525,000** to candidates
- Send NARFE members to **30** local fundraisers
- Increase monthly giving program (sustainers) by **25%, 50%, 100%**

Results

- **\$1.45** million raised!
- **\$671,500** to candidates (**\$811,500** for political purposes)!
- **65** local fundraisers attended!
- **126%** increase in sustainers!



NARFE-PAC



- **2017-2018 Goals**

- Raise \$1.5 million
- Disburse \$1 million for political purposes
- Send NARFE members to 100 local fundraisers
- Increase Sustainers by 50%



NARFE-PAC



- Sustainer: monthly credit card contribution of \$10+
- Gold: \$250+
- Silver: \$100-249
- Bronze: \$50-99
- Basic: \$25-49



Maryland NARFE-PAC

- 2015-2016
 - \$95,502 in contributions
 - 1,513 members
 - Top 5 states in NARFE!
- 2017-2018
 - \$49,792 in contributions
 - 947 members



Questions?

NARFE Legislative Department

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