2024 LEGISLATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

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Our mission as an organization is to protect the benefits we have in retirement. This means that sometimes we have to call on you, the members, to act. Those actions are important for retention of the retirement benefits we earned in service.

This past year Congress has passed little legislation and for the most part what they did pass was “rules” legislation. That leaves bills of interest to us still awaiting actions. I will try to explain their standing as of June 2024.

1. H.R. 82 The Social Security Fairness Act with 322 co-sponsors. The Senate also has a companion bill S. 597 with 59 co-sponsors and has been referred to the Senate Finance committee. They are holding hearings at this time.

These two bills would eliminate the Windfall Elimination provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). They affect one million plus citizens, both government and non-governmental pensioners. RASCOE , as well as other organizations, have been working to eliminate the windfall provisions.

The house bill is awaiting a cost-basis report in the Ways and Means committee before a vote is taken for recommendation to send it to the floor for congressional vote.

It has been a slow process for sure. A timetable for any action is a guess right now.

1. H.R. 716 The Fair Cola for Seniors Act . This has 40 sponsors and would require social security and federal retirements to use the Consumer Price Index for Elderly to calculate the cost-of-living adjustments. 2/28/2023 it was referred to subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to consideration. No action yet
2. H.R. 866 The Equal Cola Act with 59 sponsors and referred to Oversight and Accountability committee. This would make FERS and CSRS equal in receipt of COLAs. No action on this since early 2023.

I would say chaos is the word for Congress these days. Little action is being taken on many bills. RASCOE will continue to monitor progress, especially HR 82. Perhaps we will see movement this year. If we need more action from you, please contact congressional members or committees as instructed. The number of responses to committees does have a bearing on action.

There are a number of rumors about our benefits floating. I do continue to watch those items and will certainly communicate to you if any action is required.