

RASCOE Legislative Update

April 2015

I was just in Washington DC attending meetings at the Farm Service Agency with NASCOE, NAFEC, DD's and other FSA associations with Administrator Dolcini, Deputy Administrator Diephouse and others. I participated in a conversation with John Chott with DAFO about getting RASCOE into 22 PM so that it is recognized as the representative organization for retirees. This will also allow RASCOE to receive information from FSA as to retirees. This is a work in progress and I will keep you updated as we make progress.

David Senter and I attended Hill meetings on the Senate side to discuss legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination provisions. We met with three Senior Staff Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Preston Rutledge, Marc Ness and Jeffrey Wrase. We explained that repealing these provisions would provide fairness to the retirees and make a big difference to fixed income retirees. Currently no Senate Bill has been introduced to repeal these provisions but there is conversations occurring.

We also met with Texas Senator Cornyn's staff member Claire Sanderson. She was aware of the issue and said that they had been asked by Representative Brady R-TX to introduce a companion bill to his House Bill HR 711 which does not repeal only reduces the penalties. I told her that RASCOE did not support HR 711 because it still does not provide fairness to retirees. I said that RASCOE supports HR 973 introduced in the House by Rodney Davis R-IL which repeals both the Windfall Profits and Government Pension Offset provisions. HR 973 was introduced in early March and has 84 cosponsors and has both Democrats and Republican sponsors.

You can go on the website Congress.Gov and look up the Social Security Fairness Act of 2015, HR 973 and see if your House Member is a sponsor. If so thank them if not, ask them to cosponsor it. Also contact both your Senators to introduce a companion bill to HR 973 in the Senate. Also tell them that RASCOE does not support a bill to reduce penalties we want them repealed. You do not compromise before the debate begins then you run the chance of getting nothing.

Happy Spring, hope to see everyone at the August meeting.

Bren Boomer