

# LCAO Income Security Committee Meeting Minutes

## August 30, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Call-In #: 641-715-3200 p/w: 635743#

1. FY18 Budget Letter
  - a. Updated and approved by the committee.
  - b. Will be sent to NCOA leadership for integration in a larger letter coming from full LCAO. If that will not take place in a timely manner, we will request it be sent on its own.
  
2. Tax Reform: Sandra Salstrom, Legislative Director, Americans for Tax Fairness
  - c. Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) is a coalition of 425 endorsing organizations united in support of a fair tax system that works for all Americans.
  - d. The tax reform fight will be even tougher than healthcare was, though it is really an extension of the healthcare fight: taking away vital services that low- and middle-income Americans depend upon.
  - e. ATF is advocating that tax reform does not get paid for with cuts to programs.
    - a. First phase is the vote on the Budget Resolution and then the accompanying reconciliation instructions in order to fast track tax cuts.
    - b. Anticipate that a vote on the actual tax bill will be kicked into October.
      - i. This could get dragged into next year, but they will want to avoid an election year.
    - c. House and Senate resolutions will drastically differ so they will need to go to conference.
  - f. ATF feels only acceptable path is a “revenue neutral” bill that requires any tax cuts to be offset by closing tax loopholes or ending deductions. They cannot be paid for, even in part, with cuts to spending programs.
    - a. Three options that Republicans have for Budget Reconciliation:
      - i. Revenue neutral – paid for with other revenues
      - ii. Deficit neutral – paid for with spending cuts, including Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP
      - iii. Revenue losing – adds to the deficit
    - b. ATF will be lobbying the same folks in the Senate who were targeted during healthcare debate (Murkowski: AK, McCain: AZ, Flake: AZ, Collins: ME, Heller: NV, Capito: WV), amongst other long-shots: Portman (OH), Corker (TN), and Graham (SC).
    - c. Tuesday Group and the Problem Solvers caucus will be prioritized in the House.
  - g. In the President’s remarks in Springfield, MO today, there were not any surprises.
    - a. Touting the benefits to the middle class and small businesses.
    - b. Will supposedly bring broader economic growth.
  - h. Sandra shared that she and ATF would love to have the coalition join in this fight. Seniors and the aging community are ground zero in this fight because they have the most to lose. The services they rely on are what will be used to pay for big tax

cuts for the wealthy and corporations. To contact Sandra Salstrom: [ssalstrom@americansfortaxfairness.org](mailto:ssalstrom@americansfortaxfairness.org), 703-597-1954.

- i. Questions:
  - a. Eva shared that ATF has great resources on their website and encouraged everyone to take a look: [www.americansfortaxfairness.org](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org).
  - b. Eva asked if we need to be concerned about Dems. Sandra shared that ATF has only been meeting with Dems and is working on anticipating those that will need to be shored up when it comes to the “second phase” of voting on Tax Reform when the actual bill comes into play.
  - c. Evan asked about budget resolution (requires only 50 votes in the Senate) and the three options: revenue neutral (preferred by ATF), revenue losing, deficit neutral (can be paid for with spending cuts to programs the committee cares about, the method that the House recently used.)
  - d. David asked if ATF was covering the “Rothitization” of retirement accounts. Sandra said she would look into it.
  - e. John asked about where things are in the House. Sandra says that it appears, due to the volume of what’s on the docket after recess, we are likely to not see a floor vote in September, most likely October.
  
3. Social Security Commission Legislation ([H.R. 3423](https://www.congress.gov/bills/115/3423))
  - a. Co-sponsors: Rep. John Delaney (MD), Rep. Scott Peters (CA), Rep. Tom Cole (OK), Rep. David Trott (MI)
  - b. We don’t anticipate for this to garner a lot of attention, but wanted to make folks aware.
    - i. Eva Dominguez shared that ARA is mobilizing their folks in California and Maryland to influence Delaney and Peters to understand the ramifications of the Commission legislation and voice their concerns
  - c. To read more on why this legislation is bad, you can read the HuffPost article by Social Security Works President, Nancy Altman, [here](#).
  
4. Request to the committee for upcoming Topics & Speakers
  - a. Feedback:
    - i. Eva: multi-pension plans (though this has been a controversial topic in the past).
    - ii. Eva: WEP-GPA issue, aide for Rep. Brady shared that he still wants to push this
    - iii. Eva: Rep. Nolan’s COLA bill (H.R. 2896), similar to Warren’s bill, but has been introduced already
    - iv. David: Tax Reform, though there is nothing to analyze at the moment. Anticipates that long term care and people with disabilities may be targets of certain “reform”.
  - b. If you have any feedback on how the Income Security committee can be responsive, relevant, and a responsible use of your time every month, please reach out to Bre Clark ([bclark@bnaibrith.org](mailto:bclark@bnaibrith.org)) or Jasmine Jefferson ([jjefferson@socialsecurityworks.org](mailto:jjefferson@socialsecurityworks.org)) for your ideas. We are looking to set goals together as a committee and would like to work with your input.

**Items of interest:**

Talking points for Tax Reform from Americans for Tax Fairness

Tradeoff chart on the Trump Budget and tax cuts from Americans for Tax Fairness

**In attendance:**

Jasmine Jefferson, Social Security Works

Breana Clark, B'nai B'rith

Eva Dominguez, Alliance for Retired Americans

Eva Carmen, B'nai B'rith

Barbara Gaye, Leading Age

David Goldfarb, NAELA

Rusty Toler, Wiser

John Hatton, NARFE

Sarah Cohen, AFT