

# LCAO Income Security Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2018 at 2:30 pm

WeWork, 1440 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

Conference Room 8G

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

1. Omnibus FY18
  - a. See Justice in Aging email with subject: Older Adult Program Funding in 2018
  - b. SSA received an increase in funding.
    - i. Much needed after receiving several decreases over the past decade.
    - ii. Discrepancy in what has been seen in LAE funding is actual administrative versus IT costs, program integrity, and discretionary expenses.
    - iii. Cause for self-congratulation
      1. LCAO made a point in our appropriation letters asking for these increases and many groups did outreach and pushed Dear Colleague letters on this matter.
    - iv. Report language referenced office closings.
      1. This is important because appropriators go on record that this is of concern.
      2. They requested to learn more about what is causing this.
    - v. Report language also asked for SSA to report what they actually require to carry about operations within a certain time period (90 days?).
  - c. Housing
    - i. \$678 million for section 202 program, \$105 million for new construction and PBRA.
      1. 105 million for new construction will be first time a substantial amount as been appropriated towards this since FY11.
    - ii. Increased funding for Housing Choice vouchers, public housing and homeless assistance among other programs.
  - d. SNAP
    - i. There was a cut to SNAP and an addition of work requirements that the committee would like to know more about. Hoping to learn more at next full LCAO meeting.
2. FY19 Appropriations
  - a. Dear Colleague letter on SSA funding (Crowley/Larson)
    - i. They sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee along with 100 other members about their desire for SSA funding to receive proper funding in FY19
    - ii. Letter for FY18 was obviously successful, hoping to promote this the same way.
  - b. Working with increased discretionary spending caps.
  - c. Not anticipating a budget resolution in Senate, House will most likely do one.
  - d. Anticipate that they will continue doing CR's to the lame duck session and continue from there.

- e. There will most likely be a Balanced Budget amendment.
    - i. Republicans would like to introduce this despite passing a huge tax break.
    - ii. Every time they do this, there's a question about whether there should be a carve out for defense, and how to treat Social Security revenues.
    - iii. See CBPP's fact sheet on this:  
[https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-16-14bud\\_rev3-16-18.pdf](https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-16-14bud_rev3-16-18.pdf)
    - iv. Despite all of this, Republicans will want to proceed with an infrastructure package and a rumored second Tax Cut.
3. Social Security Legislation
- a. BASIC Act (Rep. DeFazio) HR 5302
    - i. Benefit Adjustment of Social Security Income Compensation Act
      - 1. Protects benefits for families of deceased veterans and social security beneficiaries by prorating based on the date of the beneficiary's death.
    - ii. Identical, companion in senate, introduced by Sen. Murphy (S. 1739)
  - b. Strengthen Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018 (HR 4547)
    - i. Passed senate with Unanimous consent.
    - ii. Creates better process for Rep Payees
  - c. Strengthen Social Security Act, Rep. Sanchez
    - i. Looking to reintroduce
    - ii. HR 5952 in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.
  - d. Sen. Sanders is looking to introduce a bill that would restructure SSA funding, particularly the way LAE allocation is restricted.
4. Future meetings
- a. Income Security co-Chairs will try to get someone from the Joint Select Committee on Appropriations.
    - i. It appears they were all on vacation after passing the Omnibus and were unable to join the meeting.
  - b. The Senate Aging committee will be speaking to us in April.
    - i. They are working on something of interest to the Income Security committee.
5. Gideon Bragin, Sen. Brown's office, Joint Select Committee on Pensions
- a. The committee is currently organizing and coming up with a schedule, there's a lot to set up: staff, office space, and scheduling hearings.
  - b. The committee will hold 5 hearings.
    - i. The first hearing will be in the Spring, followed by others in the Summer
  - c. Interested groups can participate by including our ideas during the calls for public comment, and testifying at hearings.

- d. The committee and LCAO will be able to support member efforts during the hearing.
- e. Now would be an important time to be involved if you're interested in pension issues
- f. The committee will report out in November 2018.

6. Next meeting: April 25th, 2018 at 2:30pm

**In attendance:**

Jasmine Jefferson, Social Security Works

Breana Clark, B'nai B'rith

Eva Dominguez, Alliance for Retired Americans

Sumner Sykes, Alliance for Retired Americans

Web Phillips, NCPSSM

Rusty Toler, WISER Women

David Lipschutz, Center for Medicare Advocacy

Barbara Gaye, Leading Age

Evan Carmen, B'nai B'rith

