



Legislative and Grassroots Update

College of NARFE Knowledge

Molly Checksfield
Grassroots Program Manager



Agenda

- **Where have we been?**
- **Where are we going?**
- **NARFE Legislative Priorities**
- **Grassroots Engagement**
- **NARFE-PAC**



Where have we been?

- **House FY16 Budget**
 - Two year Budget Agreement Reached Without Targeting Feds
 - Eight provisions totaling \$318 billion in cuts
 - No budget fights for NARFE until FY18

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Where have we been?

- **Recent Legislative Accomplishments**
 - Federal retirees have not paid for deficit reduction
 - Prevention of 52% increase in Medicare Part B premiums in 2016
 - Flawed postal bills have not passed
 - Chained CPI hasn't moved forward
 - Extended identity theft protection for those impacted by OPM data breaches
 - Provided substantive reforms to FLTCIP

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Where are we going?

- **115th Congress (2017-2018) - What is NARFE Facing?**
 - Administration has proposed severe cuts to federal retirement benefits
 - Maintaining current benefits should be considered a victory.*

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NARFE Legislative Priorities

- **Trump FY18 Budget - \$149 Billion**
 - Eliminate COLAs for FERS retirees
 - Reduce COLAs by 0.5 percent for CSRS retirees
 - Increase retirement contributions for FERS by 1%
 - Eliminate the FERS annuity supplement
 - High-3 to high-5 for future FERS retirees

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Other Proposals on the Table

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

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Other Proposals on the Table

- **Turning FEHBP into a voucher program**
- **Decreasing the rate of return on the TSP's G Fund**

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FEHBP Voucher Program

- **Limits government contributions towards premiums**
- **Enrollees pay a greater share over time**
 - From 28% to > 50%
 - \$50,000 lost

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TSP G Fund Rate of Return

- **Average G Fund returns = 2.6% over 10 years**
- **Reduces returns to close to zero**
- **Savings of \$32 billion over 10 years**

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NARFE Legislative Priorities

- **Budget Process Will Be Key Driver**
- **FY18 Budget Present NARFE's Biggest Threat**
- **FY16 House Budget & President Trump's FY18 Budget will be blueprint for cuts to federal pay and benefits**

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NARFE Legislative Priorities

Understanding the Budget Process

- **Step 1: President's Budget**
- **Step 2: House and Senate Budget Resolutions**
- **Step 3: Budget Reconciliation Bill**
 - Requires \$32 billion from Feds
 - 50 Vote Threshold in Senate

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NARFE Legislative Priorities

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

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Where are we going?

- **Finding Opportunities**
 - Legislation is moving with more flexible TSP withdrawal options
 - Support Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reform providing relief to *current* retirees.
 - Support reforms to Medicare Part B premiums when there is a zero or low COLA
 - Support reforms to the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program

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NARFE Legislative Priorities

- **TSP Modernization Act of 2017, S. 873/H.R. 3031**
 - Would expand and create more flexible withdrawal options
 - Many participants have transferred their retirement accounts out of the TSP
 - Would create more options for participants
 - *This legislation has been approved by committee in each chamber*

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Grassroots Engagement

- **Members of Congress Care What Constituents Think**
 - Need support for re-election
 - Must Convince Them These Issues Matter
 - And will affect your vote
 - Pressure Potential Opponents, Support Our Friends
 - Let's Build on Past Success!

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Grassroots Engagement

- **Silence = Acceptance**
- **Make Your Voice Heard**
 - Call Congress!
- **Stay Informed**
 - Keep up-to-date with NARFE Legislative communications
- **Coordinate Action**
 - Get in touch with other NARFE members to schedule meetings and events
- **Contact Us: leg@narfe.org**

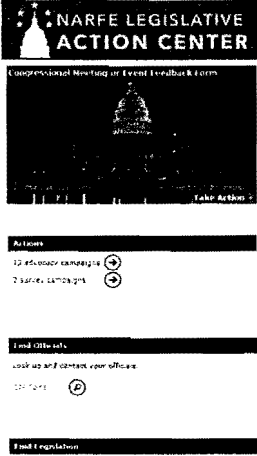
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Grassroots Engagement

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




NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER
 Congressional Meeting or Event Feedback Form
 Take Action
 All Issues
 12 education campaigns
 7 science campaigns
 Find Officials
 Look up or contact your officials
 Find Legislation

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Grassroots Engagement

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


NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

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


Oppose Attacks on the Federal Community

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

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NARFE-PAC

- **What is NARFE-PAC not?**
 - NOT partisan
 - NOT used to elect president
 - NOT a connected fund of NARFE
- **Money from the following do NOT go to NARFE-PAC:**
 - General funds
 - Membership dues
 - Notecard campaigns
 - Calendar campaigns



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NARFE-PAC


- **NARFE-PAC Consultative Process**

Receive
candidate
request

Get federation
recommendation


NARFE-PAC
Board makes
final decision

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NARFE-PAC

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



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NARFE-PAC

2015-16 Goals	2015-16 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise \$1 million• Disburse \$525,000 to candidates• Send NARFE members to 30 local fundraisers• Increase monthly giving program (sustainers) by 25%, 50%, 100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1.45 million raised!• \$671,500 to candidates (\$811,500 for political purposes)!• 65 local fundraisers attended!• 126% increase in sustainers!

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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%



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Questions?

NARFE Legislative Department
703-838-7760, ext. 201
leg@narfe.org

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