

## Legislative Report

By

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It is hard to give a legislative report when there is nothing to report. Little to report because the folks in D. C. have done nothing to pass legislation that would affect retirees. There have been many proposals and much talk including threats to reduce retirement benefits. But nothing has happened to this date.

We started the year with hope when our good friend Representative Howard Buck McKeon of California dropped H.R. 1332. The bill is entitled the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011. This act amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the social security act to repeal: (1) government pension offset requirements applicable to husband's and wife's insurance benefits, widow's and widower's and insurance benefits, and mother's and father's insurance benefits with respect to OASDI payments; and (2) windfall elimination requirements with respect to computation of an individual's primary insurance amount. This is a good clean piece of legislation and it currently has 121 co-sponsors, and has been referred to the sub-committee on Social Security.

However, with the current mood in congress this bill has no chance of coming out of committee. Hopefully we can maintain the current support for this bill and we will be able to get it reintroduced in the future if nothing is done by this congress. In fact, I believe there is little chance of moving any legislation until the next election is over.

As everyone knows, the Super Committee that was appointed to develop a plan to reduce the national debt did not come to an agreement by the November deadline. No big surprise for this congress. If they did not reach an agreement, across the board cuts were to kick in. At the time I am writing this report, I am not sure how these cuts will affect retirees if at all. When we get accurate information on the across the board cuts we will get it out through the RASCOE e-mail network.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas season. I am planning to be on the way to Florida next week. My oldest son and his family live in Altamont Springs Fl. We will be there for Christmas

week. It is a great chance to visit with my son and daughter in law, and spoil some grandkids. As if they are not already a bit spoiled. Happy New Year.