

MEMORANDUM:

TO: NSSTA-PAC Newsletter
FROM: Eric Vaughn
RE: Issue Brief on the Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus
DATE: March 1, 2016

The Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus was established to preserve, promote, protect and defend structured settlements. The Congressional Leadership of the Structured Settlements Caucus has agreed to support initiatives and proposals designed to expand the use of structured settlements, with an emphasis on agencies and department of the Federal Government.

Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus and State Structured Settlement Protection Acts: Members of the Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus from Illinois, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia and Florida have expressed strong support for state legislative actions designed to strengthen and enhance consumer protection provisions adopted in several states over the past 12 months. NSSTA has briefed Members of Congress and key Congressional staffers on specific legislative developments that will provide greater protections for payees and greater awareness on the part of state court judges of the importance of carefully reviewing transfer petition documents to make certain the best interest of the payee are protected.

National Consumer League/NSSTA Partnership: NSSTA has built powerful alliances with the National Consumers League and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and together we are working to encourage Members of Congress to join the Structured Settlements Caucus. The American Association of People with Disabilities is also working with NSSTA and several Congressional staffers to promote greater use of structured settlements for injured federal.

Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus Briefing for New Members of Congress: The Chiefs of Staff in the offices of Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, Congressman John Lewis, Congressman Pat Tiberi and Congressman Richard Neal hosted a Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus briefing for new Members of Congress and Congressional Staff. The Caucus briefing was organized to encourage new Members of Congress to join the Caucus and to provide a background briefing on the important structured settlements tax code provision.

Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus Members: The Structured Settlements Caucus has 45 Members (See List of Caucus Members Attached)

Caucus Leadership: Congressman John Lewis and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, are the Co-Chairs of the Caucus.

Congressman John Lewis: Mr. Lewis has stated, “Structured settlements have always enjoyed strong bi-partisan support in the U.S. Congress because they help ease the pain and suffering that accompany some of the worst tragedies a person can experience.”

Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner: Mr. Sensenbrenner has stated, “Congress acted 30 years ago to encourage the use of structured settlements to enable injured victims to live with dignity, free of reliance on Government benefit programs and with financial security.”