



Political Action Fund

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Contact: David Blank, (202) 637-5275 or dblank@retiredamericans.org

Seniors Group Endorses Sen. Mark Begich for Re-Election on Tele-town Hall Conference Call

Alliance for Retired Americans members proudly endorsed Mark Begich for re-election to the U.S. Senate from Alaska yesterday on a tele-town hall conference call. More than 1,500 Alliance members were on the call, which included the Senator. Sen. Begich has a 94% lifetime pro-retiree score on the Alliance's 2013 voting record:

<http://retiredamericans.org/issues/congressional-voting-record>

Call participants were reminded that Sen. Begich has introduced the Retirement and Income Security Enhancements (RAISE) Act, S. 2455. The RAISE Act would enhance Social Security benefits for widows, widowers, and divorced spouses while extending benefit eligibility for children of retired, disabled, and deceased workers. For more on the RAISE Act, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pa7dk4b>.

Begich is also the sponsor of the Social Security Fairness Act of 2013 (S. 896). That legislation would help public workers and teachers by repealing the windfall elimination requirement, which reduces Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) retirement or disability benefits if an individual receives a government pension, did not pay Social Security taxes during the years of government service, and therefore did not earn entitlement to Social Security benefits for those years.

S. 896 also applies to spouses of public workers and teachers who qualify for benefits under their spouse's Social Security records, by repealing the government pension offset requirement. More at <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/gpo-wep.htm>.

“Senator Mark Begich is really a champion for seniors. He can be trusted to lead with our interests. His views on keeping health care affordable and retirement secure are among the reasons that we stand behind Mark Begich and his candidacy for re-election to the U.S. Senate,” said Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

Mark Begich's strong positions on fighting Social Security and Medicare privatization and strengthening Social Security and Medicare confirm his commitment to improving the quality of life for older Americans. He understands that selling off our Medicare to the big insurance companies or turning our Social Security over to Wall Street would benefit few and harm many, including Alaska seniors.

The Alliance for Retired Americans represents over 4.3 million retirees and community activists, including more than 7,000 members in Alaska.

###

Paid for by the Alliance for Retired Americans Political Action Fund and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.