

## How Florida Impacts Laws

The one thing I have noticed about the recent political campaigns is that none of the candidates are talking about issues that affect seniors. The focus of the debates seems to center around the war in Iraq or the economy. These are both very important issues currently facing our country; however, with Social Security, another equally important issue, on the brink of extinction, all the candidates have steered clear. In fact, most candidates for any office have failed to address the impending senior population explosion and the resulting problems that the American society will face in the near future.

I was recently given the agenda for an upcoming conference to be given by the Silver Haired Legislature. Nowhere on the agenda appeared anything to do with health care! Can you imagine a conference about senior issues and the topic of health care not even making the agenda? Claude Pepper is turning over in his grave!

With interest rates retreating, seniors on fixed incomes are once again taking the brunt of the faltering economy. Yet most of the tax cuts approved by Congress will benefit big business and working families, not seniors. I read somewhere not too long ago that by 2010, over one half of an elderly person's Social Security retirement check will go to pay for health care costs. If that is all you have, things are going to get really tough.

I personally have written my legislature this past year to inform them of how proposed legislation will negatively impact seniors. I have also volunteered myself as a resource to one legislator on senior issues. Not one of them has even acknowledged or followed up with me regarding my comments or my offer. I guess they are doing such a good job that they don't need any new ideas. I did, however, receive many letters asking me to contribute to their campaigns!

In these times of red and blue states, it seems that most people aren't paying attention to the issues as long as their candidate gets elected. Before you make that contribution or cast that vote, make sure you know where your candidate stands on senior issues. I can tell you that most campaign literature and other articles written by candidates pay only lip service to senior issues. It is one thing to be upset and complain about programs getting cut, the price of health care, or retirement benefits being slashed. It is quite another to actually be proactive and become part of the solution. This year, make your vote count!

Wake up seniors before it is too late!