



## Sample Agenda – Congressional Meetings

### I. Introduce NARFE Members

- a. Name
- b. Title
- c. Where in state you are from
- d. What you did for the federal government (short)

### II. General Information

- a. What is NARFE and specifically your state's federation of chapters
  - i. Number of federal employees, postal employees and annuitants (available in the [State-Specific Toolkit](#))
    1. Number of annuitants
    2. Number of employees
      - a. Where do the employees work
    3. Number of postal employees
  - b. Relationship with Legislator's Office
    - i. Your legislator's voting record is available in the [Legislative Action Center](#)
    - ii. Check your legislator's position on key NARFE legislation by using the "[Know Before You Go Checklist](#)"
- c. What Federal Community Has Given Toward Deficit Reduction - \$120 Billion
  - i. Three-year pay freeze (\$98 billion)
    1. According to BLS, the pay gap between the private sector and federal workers has increased 8.8 percent over the past four years while the cost of goods has gone up 8.7 percent
  - ii. New employees are now paying 3.6 percent more toward their retirement
    1. This is the second increase in two years for new employees (total savings - \$21 billion)
  - iii. Federal employees were furloughed up to 10 days in 2013 as a result of sequestration (\$1 billion in lost wages in 2013 alone)
    1. Then employees faced a 16-day government shutdown where they received no pay and those who were not able to come to work had no guarantee of back pay

### III. Chained CPI

- a. Originally suggested as part of the Simpson-Bowles Fiscal Commission, followed by the President's FY14 budget, and the House Republican Study Committee FY14 and FY15 budgets



- b. Would switch from the current CPI-W to the Chained CPI to determine annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
  - i. Could impact federal annuitants, military civilian retirees, Social Security recipients, the disabled and veterans (i.e., everyone)
  - ii. Argued to be a more accurate measurement of inflation because it uses the substitution effect
    - 1. Does not take into account the lower standard of living resulting from the substitution effect
  - iii. There is no substitute for health care costs
    - 1. Health care inflation continues to rise at a higher amount than regular inflation
      - a. In 2014, health care inflation was 3.7% while regular inflation was 1.7 percent
        - i. FEHBP premiums rose 3.2 percent in 2015 while the COLA was 1.7 percent
      - b. For those over age 62, health care is 12 percent of their spending – compared to 5 percent for those under 62
  - iv. Seniors already on a fixed income have already substituted all that they can
- c. Use the [Chained CPI calculator](#) on NARFE's website to determine your personal impact. Share that information during your meeting.

#### **IV. Conclusion/Thank You**

- a. Review any action items from the meeting
- b. Reminder that you are available as a resource