

***Inaugural Meeting of the
Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.
March 5, 2014***

The Inaugural Meeting of the Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus took place on Wednesday, March 5, in the House Judiciary Committee Hearing Room in the Rayburn House Office Building, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus Program Agenda:

Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, one of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus, welcomed Congressional staffers, disability organization leaders and structured settlement industry leaders to the Caucus meeting stating, “this Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus has been established to highlight one of Congress’ great bipartisan policy successes during the past 30 years.” Mr. Sensenbrenner continued, “this bi-partisan Caucus is committed to help educate the Congressional community about the important role that structured settlements play in assisting injured victims to live their lives with economic security, confidence and dignity after a serious physical injury.” *For a copy of Congressman Sensenbrenner’s comments, [click here](#).*

Congressman John Lewis, D-Georgia, stated, “structured settlements have always enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress—for one very simple reason—structured settlements work to help injured victims live their lives with security and confidence. Mr. Lewis said, “My good friend Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and I organized this Caucus to help educate Members of Congress and Congressional staff on the importance of structured settlements.”

Congressman Lewis added, “Thirty years ago, Congress acted 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.” “Structured settlements constitute a private sector funding alternative to taxpayer-financed assistance programs to meet the ongoing, long-term medical expenses and basic living needs of seriously injured victims and their families, providing long-term financial security through an assured stream of payments tailored to the victim’s needs throughout his or her lifetime.” *For a copy of Congressman John Lewis’ comments, [click here](#).*

Congressman Jim Langevin, D-Rhode Island: Congressman Langevin, a Member of the Caucus, stated, “when I was a young man my life was changed forever when a police officer’s gun accidentally fired and severed my spine.” “Without the tremendous moral support of my family and the economic security that came from my structured settlement, I would never have gone to college, never been elected to the Office of Secretary of State in Rhode Island and never been elected to Congress.” “I know first hand what it means to have your life shattered, but I also know what it means have the confidence and the security that comes from knowing your medical bills and health care costs will be paid for on time for the rest of our life.”

Fred Maahs, Chairman of the American Association of People with Disabilities and Vice Chairman of the NBS/Universal Foundation: Fred Maahs made the following statement at the inaugural meeting of the Structured Settlements Caucus. “With the American people clamoring for common-sense solutions to serious problems, structured settlements stand out as a shining success. It is a clear-cut example of Congressional policy working as intended to protect the long-term economic security and health of accident survivors and avoid the need for public assistance.” *For a copy of Fred Maahs’ comments, [click here](#).*

Tony Coelho, Former Member of Congress and former Chairman of the AAPD: Tony Coelho made the following comments at the Caucus Meeting: “I am thrilled to be here today with two of the finest and most respected Members of Congress—Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and Congressman John Lewis—I served with both men here in Congress and both are champions on issues important to people with disabilities.”

“From the time when I served in the U.S Congress structured settlements have always enjoyed strong bipartisan support here on Capitol Hill—for one very simple reason—structured settlements work to help injured

victims live their lives with security and confidence.” *For a copy of Tony Coelho’s remarks, [click here](#).*

Caucus Panel Discussion: Congressman John Lewis stated that the inaugural meeting of the Structured Settlements Caucus would include a panel discussion on structured settlements.

Panel members included, former Congressman Tony Coelho, AAPD Chairman Fred Maahs, AAPD President Mark Perriello and NSSTA Executive Director.

The Caucus Panel Discussion was designed to provide Congressional staff with background information on structured settlements. The following questions were presented and several structured settlement industry professionals in the Judiciary Committee Hearing Room provided detailed responses:

Question: What is a structured settlement and who can take advantage of a structured settlement?

Question: How are structured settlements negotiated? Who gets involved in negotiating a structured settlement for an injury victim?

Question: Structured settlements enable seriously injured, often profoundly disabled people to live with dignity and financial independence, free of reliance on government programs and interference. Can you provide us with an example of a case you have worked on to help an injured victim with a structured settlement?

Question: I understand structured settlements have been used in the tort area for over 30 years. Are there other areas where structured settlements are used today? Worker’s Compensation claims, wrongful death claims, Medicare set-asides for workers compensation cases.