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# Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>

## 82 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

August 12, 2010

White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Attn: National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform

Dear Mr. Bowles and Sen. Simpson,

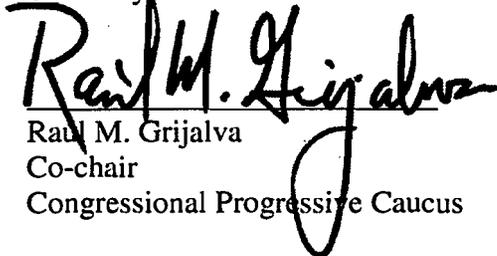
We write to express our strong opposition to any potential proposal from your commission that would undermine Social Security by reducing benefits, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing elements of the program.

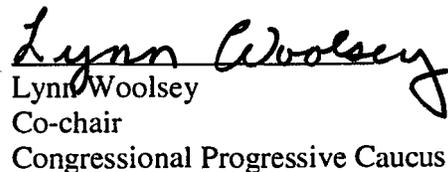
Social Security runs an annual surplus of \$100 billion, and is by law prohibited from incurring any debt that would contribute to the national deficit. Because Social Security is not the cause of our national deficit, attempts to reduce it by cutting benefits would be misguided.

For 75 years, Social Security has been a promise to the American people that if they work hard and pay their share, they will have a financially secure retirement. This promise includes Supplemental Security Income (SSI), survivor benefits and retirement benefits. In communities across this country, Social Security benefits are often the only thing helping families maintain a decent standard of living. We will not allow the commission to reduce Social Security payments, especially during an economic downturn that has wiped out trillions of dollars in net worth around the country.

Any recommendations from your commission must be enacted by both houses of Congress. If any of those recommendations cut or diminish Social Security in any way, we will stand firmly against them.

Sincerely,

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Co-chair  
Congressional Progressive Caucus

  
Lynn Woolsey  
Co-chair  
Congressional Progressive Caucus