

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2010

Dear President Obama:

We write today to express our strong support for Social Security and our view that it should be strengthened. We oppose any cuts to Social Security benefits, including raising the retirement age. We also oppose any effort to privatize Social Security, in whole or in part.

You have charged the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform with proposing recommendations that improve the long-term fiscal outlook and address the growth of entitlement spending. It is our view that Social Security—which is prohibited by law from adding to the national budget deficit—does not belong as part of those recommendations.

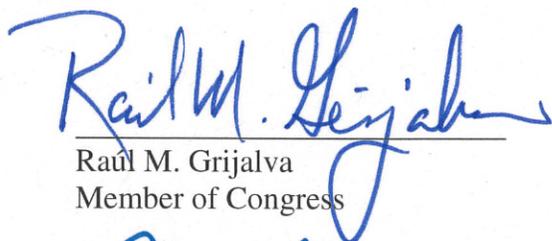
By 2023, Social Security will have built up a \$4.3 trillion surplus, and, without any action, can pay full benefits until 2037 and at least 75 percent of all benefits thereafter. Because Social Security is funded separately from the general treasury and has no borrowing authority, it has not contributed to the federal deficit. Despite these facts, some Commission members have repeatedly alleged the need to cut Social Security for budgetary reasons.

For 75 years, Social Security has been a promise to the American people that if they work hard and pay their fair share, they will have a financially secure retirement. In communities across this country, Social Security benefits are often the only source of income helping families maintain a decent standard of living. Social Security's benefits are modest, averaging less than \$13,000 a year, but they are vital to the vast majority of Americans who receive them.

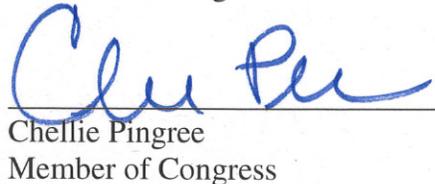
Cutting Social Security benefits beyond the already scheduled increase in the retirement age from 65 to 67 would create even more needless hardship for millions of vulnerable Americans. This is especially true in the face of an economic downturn that has wiped out trillions of dollars that Americans were relying on for their retirement security and the increased dismantlement of the private and public pension systems.

If any of the Commission's recommendations cut or diminish Social Security in any way, we will stand firmly against them. We urge you to join us in protecting and strengthening Social Security rather than letting it fall victim to a misguided attempt to reduce budget deficits on the backs of working families.

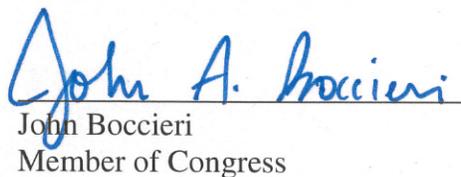
Sincerely,

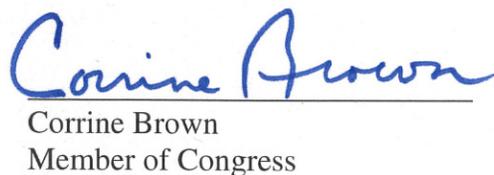

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Dan Maffei
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

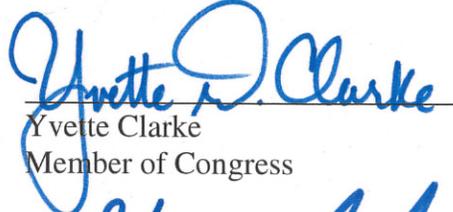

Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress

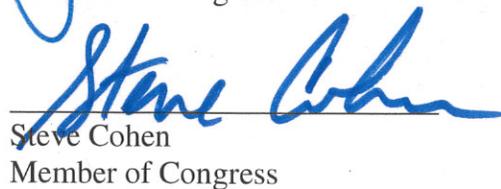

John Bocchieri
Member of Congress

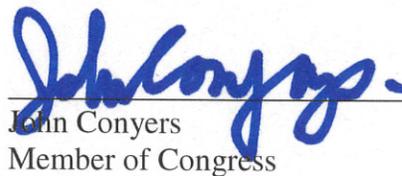

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

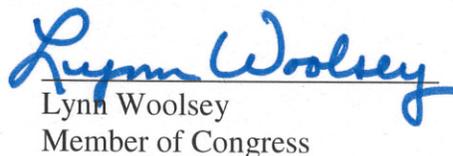

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

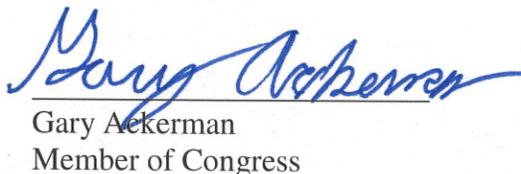

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

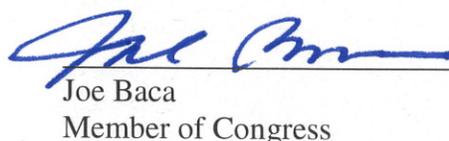

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

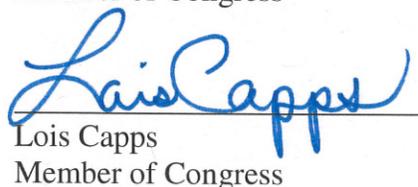

John Conyers
Member of Congress


Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

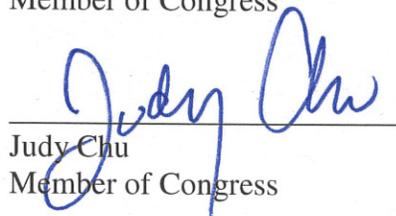

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress


Joe Baca
Member of Congress

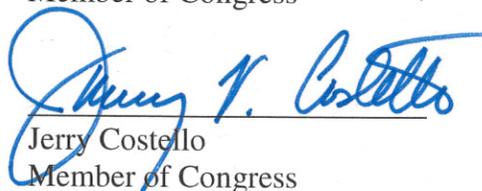

Robert Brady
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Lois Capps
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Andre Carson
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Judy Chu
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William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


Jerry Costello
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Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
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Mark Critz
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Rosa DeLauro
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Mike Doyle
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Donna Edwards
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Keith Ellison
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Anna Eshoo
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Eni Faleomavaega
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Sam Farr
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Chaka Fattah
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Barney Frank
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John Garamendi
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M.C.



Alan Grayson
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Al Green
Member of Congress



Gene Green
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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John Hall
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Deborah Halvorson
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Phil Hare
Member of Congress



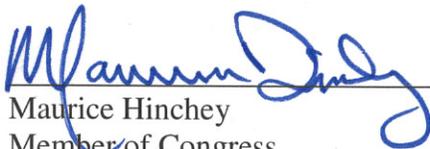
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



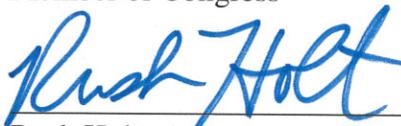
Maurice Hinchey
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Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



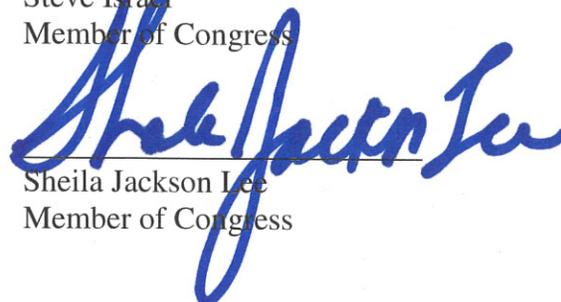
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Steve Kagen MD

Steve Kagen
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Marcy Kaptur

Marcy Kaptur
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Dale E. Kildee

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Carolyn Kilpatrick
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Mary Jo Kilroy
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Larry Kissell

Larry Kissell
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Ron Klein

Ron Klein
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Dennis J. Kucinich

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Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

John Lewis

John Lewis
Member of Congress

David Loeb sack

David Loeb sack
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey

Nita Lowey
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Ben R. Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
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James McGovern

James McGovern
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Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
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Betsy Markey

Betsy Markey
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Edward J. Markey

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Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy
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Kendrick Meek

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Richard Neal
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James Oberstar

James Oberstar
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Solomon Ortiz

Solomon Ortiz
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Frank Pallone Jr.

Frank Pallone
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Doris Matsui
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Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott
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Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks
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Brad Miller

Brad Miller
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Grace F. Napolitano

Grace Napolitano
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Eleanor G. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Bill Owens

Bill Owens
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Ed Pastor

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Donald Payne

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Nick Rahall

Nick Rahall
Member of Congress

Charles Rangel

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson

Laura Richardson
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Ciro D. Rodriguez

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Mike Ross

Mike Ross
Member of Congress

Steven Rothman

Steven Rothman
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
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C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

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Member of Congress

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Gregorio Sablan

Gregorio Sablan
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John Salazar

John Salazar
Member of Congress

Linda J. Sánchez

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

Mark Schauer

Mark Schauer
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano

José Serrano
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter

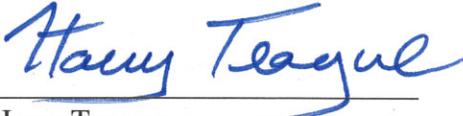
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



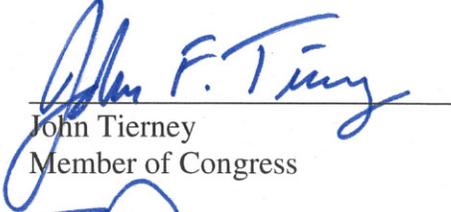
Zack Space
Member of Congress



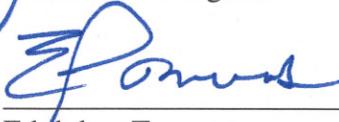
Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



Harry Teague
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



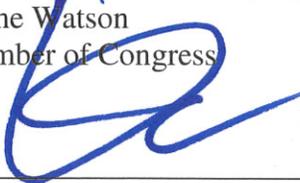
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



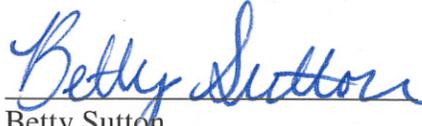
Diane Watson
Member of Congress



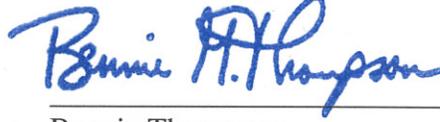
David Wu
Member of Congress



Fortney Stark
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



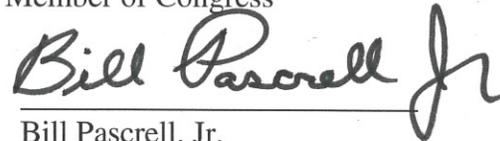
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress