

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

...don't cut it.

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Theodore Deutch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Deutch:

Thank you for introducing the **Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act (H.R. 539)**. The Strengthen Social Security Campaign, comprised of more than 270 state and national organizations representing more than 50 million Americans endorses this legislation, because it puts Social Security into close long-term actuarial balance without cutting the program's modest benefits, as well as more accurately providing for critical cost-of-living adjustments.

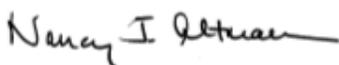
Your bill reflects the fact that Social Security is fully funded for more than 25 years, and has sufficient funds to pay 75 percent of promised benefits thereafter. By eliminating the cap on the amount of wages subject to Social Security payroll taxes (\$106,800 for 2011); your bill would close nearly all Social Security's entire projected financial shortfall.

Social Security's annual and automatic COLA, which has averaged about 3% for the last 25 years, is essential because it assures that inflation that does not erode the value of benefits over time. Your bill would improve the COLA formula by basing it on the Consumer Price Index – Elderly (CPI-E), an inflation index that more accurately reflects the purchasing trends of seniors and people living on fixed incomes.

H.R. 539 provides a roadmap for stabilizing, improving and modernizing Social Security for current and future beneficiaries – not only retired workers, but also the disabled, including veterans, women and children – without cutting benefits. Our campaign is organized around three principles: opposing efforts to privatize Social Security, cutting benefits, or raising the retirement age; any legislation endorsed must conform to our principles, which can be found at: www.strengthensocialsecurity.org

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the 112th Congress to protect this vital program. For further information about our campaign, please contact Alison Reardon, Legislative Director at 202-454-6190 or areardon@socialsecurity-works.org.

Sincerely,



Nancy Altman
Co-chair



Eric Kingson
Co-chair



Frank Clemente
Campaign Manager