

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

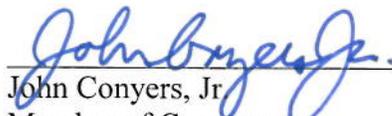
This August marks 80 years since the creation of Social Security, a program that has enabled tens of millions of Americans to realize the dream of retirement. We greatly appreciate your support for the program and your broader efforts to promote financial security.

We write today to request your help in ensuring that Americans continue to have sufficient resources to maintain their standard of living in old age. As employers continue moving from a defined benefit model to a defined contribution model of retirement savings, it is critical that we fight to protect and expand Social Security—the only guaranteed source of income in retirement. Today, two-thirds of retirees depend on Social Security for the majority of their income. More than half (53 percent) of today’s working Americans are not expected to have sufficient resources upon retirement to maintain their standard of living.

We believe that the decennial White House Conference on Aging, taking place on July 13, presents an excellent opportunity to open a discussion on expanding Social Security benefits. A clear majority of Americans support expanding Social Security. According to a 2014 survey, 79 percent of likely voters support “increasing Social Security benefits.” This support crosses party lines: 90 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of Independents, and 73 percent of Republicans favor expanding Social Security.

Given the state of popular opinion and the impending retirement savings crisis facing this nation, we respectfully urge you to include proposals to expand Social Security benefits for millions of Americans to your policy brief at the upcoming Conference. As Social Security is affordable, universal, efficient, secure, portable, distributionally fair, and popular, expanding its modest benefits should be the number one retirement security recommendation of the White House Conference on Aging. We look forward to working with you to accomplish this as part of the longstanding mission guaranteeing universal retirement security.

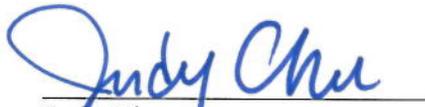
Sincerely,

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

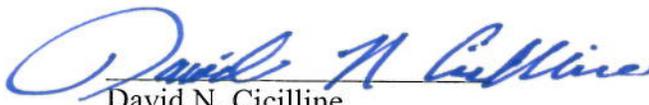
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

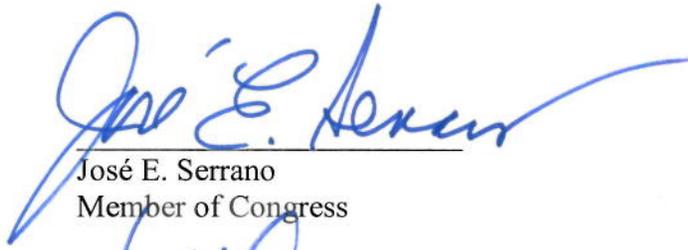
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

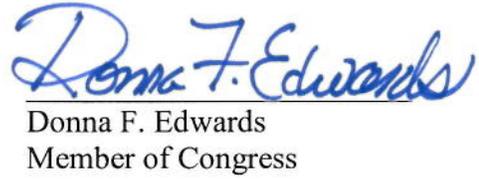
  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



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Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



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Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



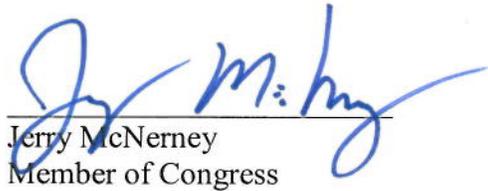
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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



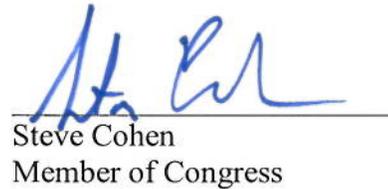
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



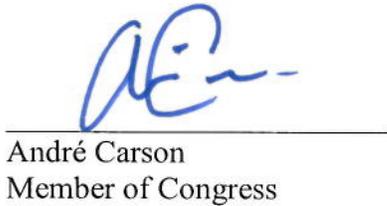
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



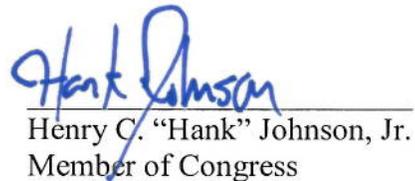
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Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



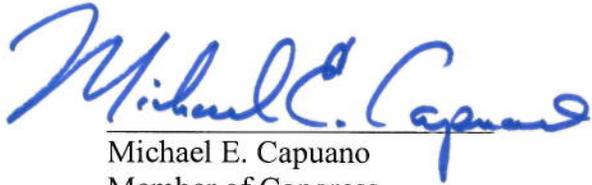
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



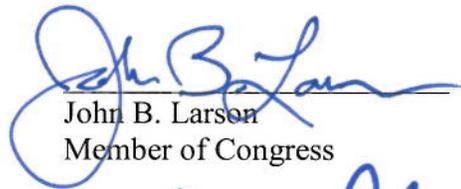
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



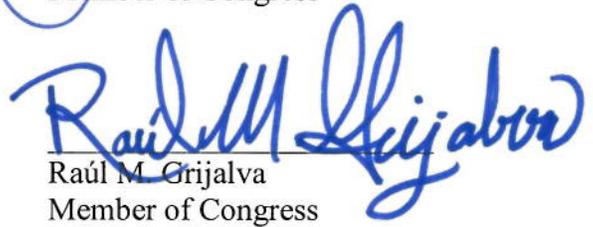
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



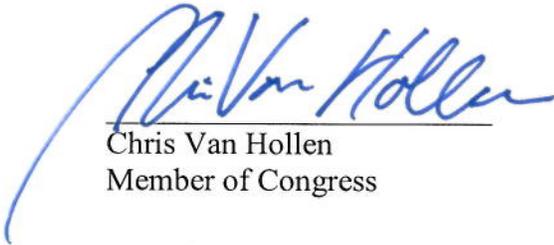
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



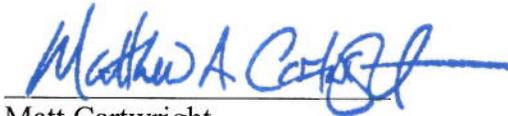
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



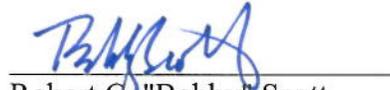
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

  
M.C.

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



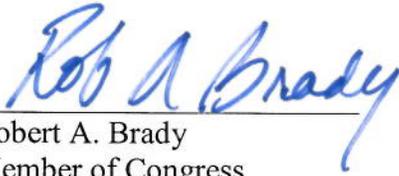
Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress



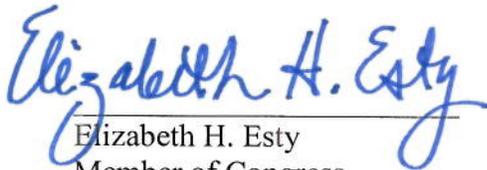
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



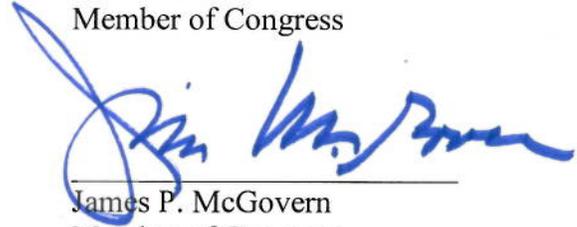
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



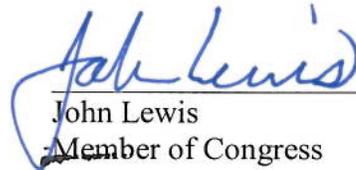
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



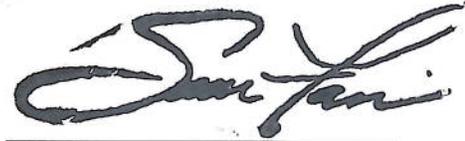
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



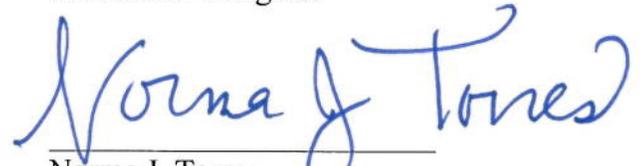
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



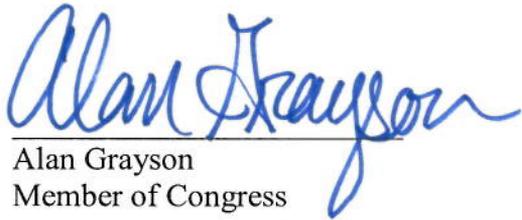
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

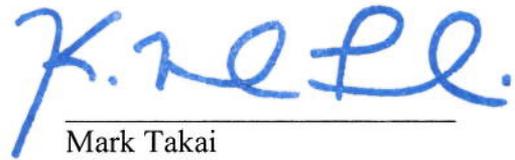


William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

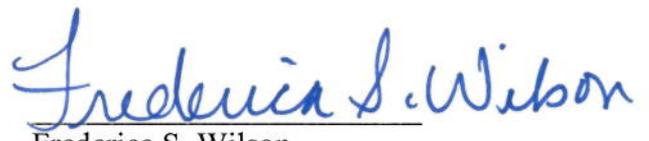
  
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

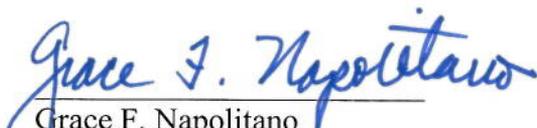
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

  
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

  
Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress

  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator