

BENEFIT SECURITY COALITION  
*A Program of the Civic Council*

February 15, 2008

Dear Senator XXXXXX or Rep. XXXXXX,

The primary goal of the Benefit Security Coalition is to work on behalf of our members to ensure that they receive the benefits that have been promised to them by the federal government.

Specifically, we work towards ensuring that senior citizens receive a fair cost of living adjustment for their Social Security benefits.

The Benefit Security Coalition believes Social Security is a binding contract between the federal government and retirees that needs to be honored, protected and strengthened.

On behalf of the 88,280 current members of the Benefit Security Coalition, I am writing today to ask for your help in ensuring that senior citizens in our country receive a fair cost of living increase that keeps up with inflation. As you already know, seniors on fixed incomes are faced with the challenge of rising costs for health care, prescriptions, heating and gas needs.

Currently the Benefit Security Coalition does not feel that the cost of living adjustment given to seniors is meeting their basic needs in comparison with rising inflation.

And we have heard from over 105,800 citizens from all across the country who want current cost of living adjustments to be increased at a fair rate to ensure that seniors are not forced into a situation where they must choose whether to buy groceries or pay for medicines.

The 2.3% C.O.L.A. increase for 2008 is the smallest increase in four years. We strongly believe this leaves many senior citizens in a highly vulnerable economic situation.

We would also like to take this opportunity to strongly urge you to pass H.R. 2987, The COLA Fairness Act, which has been proposed, in the House several times in the last few years, only to meet the same disappointing fate of disappearing in committee.

On behalf of our members, the Benefit Security Coalition asks that you work in the coming year to ensure that senior citizens receive a fair cost of living increase that will protect them from economic insecurity.

We also welcome any opportunities to work with you to achieve our goal of protecting Social Security today and for future generations of Americans.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist you in any way. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas Cromwell  
Executive Director