

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 10, 2003

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In your State of the Union Address this year, you said, "This country has many challenges. We will not deny, we will not ignore, we will not pass along our problems to other Congresses, other presidents, and other generations. We will confront them with focus, and clarity, and courage."

We share your commitment to addressing the important issues facing the American people, and like you we believe Social Security ranks as one of the highest. When you established your commission to strengthen Social Security, you helped move the debate forward. Now we must take the next steps in advancing Social Security reform.

As you know, the fiscal implications of any Social Security reform proposal will always be a central issue, and during a time of federal deficits this concern is more important than ever. For this reason, we must begin to budget for reform of the Social Security system.

Specifically in addition to ensuring that surplus Social Security taxes stay within the Social Security system, we ask that you include a reserve fund for Social Security reform in the budget you will submit to Congress for fiscal year 2005. This money must be used solely for legislation that fundamentally addresses the long-term problems associated with the current system. Absent reform this fund could not be used to reduce payroll taxes, increase benefits, or make minor changes. In the same way Congress budgeted money for Medicare reform, dedicating a portion of the federal budget for Social Security reform will help advance debate on this issue and move it to the forefront of domestic policy issues.


While we may not agree on the details of how to reform the current Social Security system, we all agree about the urgency of this issue and the need to address it immediately. Including a reserve fund in your budget could provide some additional guidelines for a serious discussion about options for reform. These guidelines would be one more step in helping build consensus.

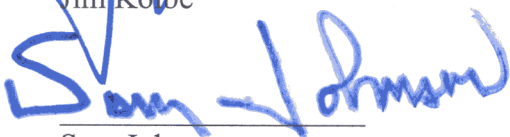
Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to working with you on crafting a budget that meets the needs of America's working families and legislation to provide real retirement security to America's workers.

Sincerely,

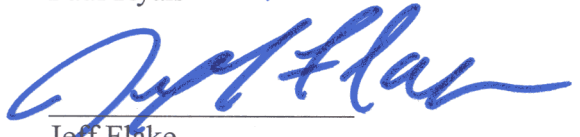
  
Jim DeMint


  
Charles W. Stenholm


  
Jim Kolbe

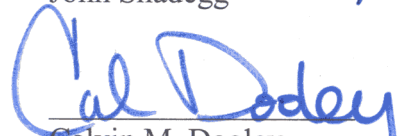
  
Sam Johnson

  
Paul Ryan

  
Jeff Flake


  
Allen Boyd

  
John Shadegg

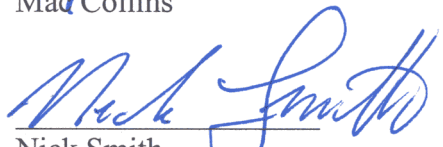
  
Calvin M. Dooley


  
Walter B. Jones

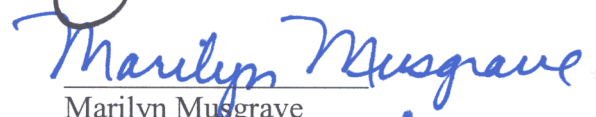
  
Barbara Cubin

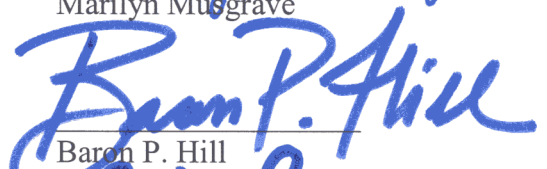
  
Pat Toomey

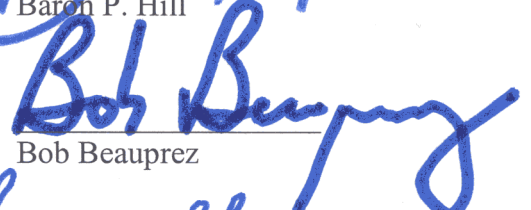
  
Mac Collins

  
Nick Smith

  
Mike Pence

  
Marilyn Musgrave

  
Baron P. Hill

  
Bob Beauprez

  
Scott Garrett