

# HARRY MITCHELL

Representing Arizona's 5th district



[Website](#) | [About Harry](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [News](#) | [Contact Me](#)

Dear Friend,

As you know, I have consistently advocated for our seniors and have fought to protect Medicare and Social Security.

Last week, I was proud to stand with seniors once again when I voted to protect those facing an increase in their Medicare Part B premiums without a corresponding cost-of-living increase in their Social Security benefits for 2010.

As you may know, the Social Security Administration recently projected that, for the first time in 35 years, recipients will not receive a cost-of-living increase in their benefits. However, at the same time, premiums for Medicare Part B, which covers physician services and outpatient care, are expected to rise.

[H.R. 3631, The Medicare Premium Fairness Act](#), prevents seniors from paying the increase in Medicare Part B premiums this coming year while there is no increase in Social Security benefits. [It passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote](#) of 406 to 18 and is now pending before the Senate.

While this bill will protect seniors in the next year, I also believe we must take action to lower health care costs and strengthen Medicare so our seniors don't have to choose between paying the bills and getting the health care they need. Our seniors should not have to worry about Medicare premium increases in years when Social Security remains flat, especially in times of such economic hardship.

That is why I recently cosponsored [H.R. 2429, the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers](#), which would establish a new Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers that would be used in the calculation of annual Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. This new index would take into account the costs faced by those 62 and older rather than the prices of goods and services for younger workers, which is what the current index uses for its calculations. Younger workers have very different needs and spending habits than our seniors. In particular, seniors spend much more on health care costs.

This common-sense approach will ensure that the calculation for cost-of-living adjustments accurately reflects the costs seniors' are actually experiencing. More importantly it will help protect seniors' financial security during difficult economic times.

Please be assured that as these issues come up in Congress I will continue working as an advocate for our nation's seniors.


Sincerely,




**Washington Office** - 1410 Longworth House Office Building \* Washington, D.C. 20515 \* (202) 225-2190  
**District Office** - 7201 East Camelback Road, Suite 335 \* Scottsdale, Arizona 85251 \* (480) 946-2411

If you wish to contact me, please do so at <http://mitchell.house.gov>. Please **do NOT** reply to this message.


If you do not wish to receive future emails from Congressman Harry Mitchell, unsubscribe here.



**Stay Informed**  
Sign up for Harry's latest news and information



**Contact Harry**  
Send Harry an e-mail with your questions/comments



**Tell A Friend**  
Spread the word by forwarding this link to a friend!