



Dear

AARP's mission is to protect the interests of older Americans and their families and to help them live their best lives. But there is one key issue that concerns us most ... the future of your Social Security benefits.

Social Security faces a financial shortfall, and if no action is taken by 2034, future retirees could lose more than 20% of their benefits! We need our elected officials to commit to taking action and do what is necessary to make Social Security financially sound with adequate benefits for the long term.

Be assured ... AARP is fighting for you on this critical issue. But we can't do it alone.

My question to you is this ... where do you stand?

AARP's strength comes from our members. Membership dues only go so far, and for special efforts such as our campaign to make Social Security financially sound with adequate benefits, we must turn to our members for additional financial support. We depend upon you to provide the support that is necessary to command the attention of our leaders in Washington, D.C.

In a matter of only weeks, our new president will be inaugurated and a new Congress convened, and we must exert pressure upon them to take action and update Social Security so it is financially sound and provides adequate income for current and future generations.

That's why I'm asking you to join us by taking two important actions:

FIRST: Sign and return the enclosed petitions to your members of Congress and urge them to make updating and strengthening Social Security a priority. Tell them that we need a commitment for action on a plan ... a plan that will ensure that Social Security remains strong for many generations to come. Return your petitions, and we will deliver them on your behalf at the most opportune time.

SECOND: When you return your signed petitions, please include a donation to aid AARP's efforts to ensure the future of this vital program and to protect the financial security of you and millions of other older Americans.

It is vital that our leaders work toward long-term solutions to ensure that Social Security can pay promised benefits — not only for current beneficiaries, but for our children and grandchildren as well.

Your contribution will help our work on Capitol Hill. And it's never been more needed than today. I'm certain that, like me, you are frustrated that our elected officials cannot come together and find a long-term solution to our nation's financial problems.

(over, please)

*How old
will you be
in 2034?
Could you
afford to
lose more
than 20%
of your
benefits?*

If we can't count upon our elected officials to show some leadership and address our financial problems, how can we be sure they will do the right thing when it comes to determining the future of Social Security? Sadly, the answer is this: We can't just sit back and hope they do the right thing when it comes to your financial security.

Social Security is the principal source of income for most older Americans. One in three seniors counts on Social Security for nearly all of his or her retirement income. And research shows that it will continue to be the main source of retirement income for most middle-class retirees in the future. Today, the average monthly payment is just \$1,328. And one in ten American seniors lives under the poverty line. Ten million Americans over age 65 have an annual income of less than \$10,800.

For the sake of American seniors — especially those who depend upon these benefits for the majority of their income — Social Security must be put on stable financial ground so that people who work and pay into the system will receive the benefits they count on. It is time for politicians to stop kicking the can down the road and start talking about how they would update and strengthen Social Security, not only for us, but for our children and grandchildren as well.

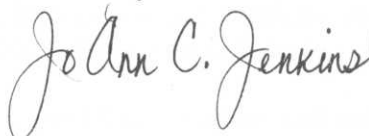
With your help, AARP will have the resources necessary to work in Washington, D.C., in 2017 to ensure that our elected leaders commit to action that will maintain the program's fundamental character and core elements ... make it financially sound and ensure it provides adequate benefits ... protect those most in need ... make improvements to reflect today's workforce ... ensure fairness ... and most importantly, ensure that we get the benefits we have earned and count on.

As we fight to ensure the long-term strength of Social Security, will you stand with AARP and support our efforts?

Your petitions to your members of Congress will urge our elected officials to take action to strengthen and update Social Security. Such petition efforts have helped our previous campaigns to protect our health and financial security. This campaign is just as important to the outcome of this critical effort, so please sign your petitions and return them along with a generous contribution to provide our staff with the resources they need to succeed.

Your support will also greatly aid our efforts to push Congress to commit to updating Social Security and preserve benefits for our children, our grandchildren, and ourselves. So please respond today.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann C. Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. The future of Social Security is in the hands of our newly elected leaders in Washington, D.C. That's why we must urge our members of Congress to take action to commit to ensure the adequacy and stability of this vital program. And it's why I hope you will act quickly by returning your signed petitions to members of Congress along with a contribution today. Or, you can help save resources for AARP by making your contribution online at www.aarp.org/support.