

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

...don't cut it.

September 8, 2011

Senator Bernie Sanders
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your sponsorship of the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act. The Strengthen Social Security Campaign, comprised of more than 320 national and state organizations representing more than 50 million Americans, endorses this legislation because it will make Social Security fully solvent for the next 75 years without cutting the program's modest benefits, including raising the retirement age.

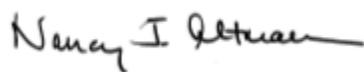
Your bill recognizes that Social Security currently is fully funded for a quarter century and has sufficient dedicated revenues to pay at least 75 percent of promised benefits thereafter. By requiring Social Security contributions on wages in excess of \$250,000 your bill would allow all scheduled benefits to be paid on time and in full for the next 75 years.

Only 2 percent of Americans have incomes over \$250,000; an even smaller percentage has wage income over that level. By 2033, as wages grow the Social Security wage cap, which is currently at \$106,800 and indexed to average wages, will reach \$250,000, and all wages then will be subject to Social Security for tax purposes. That is only right – the wealthiest Americans should be put on an equal footing with those who make much less.

Your bill provides a roadmap for restoring Social Security to long-range balance without cutting the benefits of current and future beneficiaries – not only retired workers, but also people with disabilities, including those wounded in combat in defense of our nation, their families, and the families of those who have lost a wage earner.

Again, thank you for introducing the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act and for all the work you are doing as a champion of Social Security. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the 112th Congress to protect this vital program.

Sincerely,



Nancy Altman
Campaign Co-Chair



Eric Kingson
Campaign Co-Chair



Frank Clemente
Campaign Manager