

January 21, 2010

To: NRLN Grassroots Network Members

From: NRLN President Bill Kadereit

Subject: NRLN Action Alert: Social Security and Medicare Must Be Protected

The U.S. Senate may soon vote on S. 2853, the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act. The bill sponsored by Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Judd Gregg (R-NH) would create a bipartisan task force to address the nation's long-term budget crisis, including Social Security and Medicare. Since there are 35 co-sponsors for the bill, it has broad bipartisan support in the Senate.

If passed by the Senate and House and signed by President Obama, the 18-member task force composed of Democrat and Republican members of Congress and Administration appointees would review all aspects of the current and long-term financial condition of the federal government and bring its recommendations to a vote before the end of the 2010 session of Congress.

The NRLN believes it is critical to demand that any deliberations on changes to Social Security and Medicare through this task force or any other body be conducted in the open so that America's Social Security and Medicare recipients will know whether their benefits are being protected. You are encouraged to immediately email the NRLN's sample letter to your Senators.

Please go to <http://capwiz.com/abtr/home/> to access the NRLN Action Alert. Look for the Action Alert headline: SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE MUST BE PROTECTED. Click on the "Take Action" button. On the next screen, type in your zip code and click "GO" to identify your Senators and access the sample letter. Be sure to personalize the letter with your own comments. If you have a problem accessing the Action Alert with the above link, go to www.nrln.org and click on the "Take Action Now" headline at the top of the NRLN website's home page.

It appears there will be a strong push by Congressional leaders and the President to address Social Security and Medicare costs and benefits in 2010. We must be prepared to fight to protect what we have and preserve it for future retirees. We need the support of all of our Grassroots Network members and we need you to encourage your friends to sign up as Grassroots Network members at <http://capwiz.com/abtr/mlm/signup/>. Not only do we need you and your friends to email letters to Washington and talk with your members of Congress, we also need your financial support through an individual member contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more. Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. You may make your check or money order payable to **NRLN, Inc.** and mail it along with the Membership Contribution Form at: <http://www.nrln.org/printad.php>. Or, you may make your contribution online with your credit card through PayPal on the NRLN website at <http://www.nrln.org> by clicking on the "Support the NRLN" link on the home page.

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

Sample Letter:

Dear Senator _____:

The National Retiree Legislative Network has brought to my attention that the U.S. Senate may soon vote on S. 2853, the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act. It is my understanding that this bill would create an 18-member bipartisan task force to address the nation's long-term budget crisis, including the cost of Social Security and Medicare.

Certainly, there needs to be a bipartisan effort in Congress to review all aspects of the current and long-term financial condition of the federal government and enact solutions to bring the budget under control. My purpose

in writing to you is to ask that you insist that any deliberations on changes to Social Security and Medicare be conducted in the open so America's Social Security and Medicare recipients will know whether their benefits are being protected.

Our nation's retirees depend on Social Security and Medicare for much, if not all, of their well-being in retirement. We can't afford to have any of our benefits reduced.

If the Senate passes S. 2853 and it eventually becomes law, I will look to you to make sure that the work of the task force is done in the open. Americans must have ample opportunity to provide their input on any legislation proposed by the task force. We won't stand for any "closed room deals" negatively impacting retirees' Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Sincerely,