



NATIONAL RETIREE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK, INC

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November 12, 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2202

Dear Senator Levin:

We, the undersigned, represent hundreds of thousands of retirees from the three American automobile manufacturers, Chrysler, Ford and General Motors. Over a period spanning many decades, these companies made overt, deal-making promises to their salaried retirees that they would give and maintain health care benefits. The retirees from these companies relied on these promises when planning their retirement finances. Now, all three companies have announced that they are eliminating these benefits, or reducing them so dramatically as to make their former employer's benefits negligible in worth.

It is imperative that these health care benefits be restored as part of the federal government's financial package to rescue these companies. The economic crisis has hit all Americans extremely hard, but our retirees have limited income, extremely limited choices in the short run, and frankly little to look forward to in terms of having pension benefits and 401(k) accounts bounce back. The federal government must face the fact that, one way or another, these retirees will need their support. We urge Congress and the Administration to act now to help retirees before the situation becomes dire, and more expensive to fix.

We all have tough choices to make in this frightening economy. Our retirees have already been making them in recent years due to corporate greed in using pension account assets for purposes other than its intended beneficiaries and out-of-control health care costs. They need your support now as you pursue your discussions with the Administration. Please make these retirees an agenda priority in your negotiations. They deserve our nation's support.

We stand ready to help in any way. We can be reached at the phone numbers listed below, and the National Retirees Legislative Network's Executive Director, Marta Bascom, in Washington, D.C. can be reached at (703)863-9611.

Please give this urgent request ever possible consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Dickinson
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Retiree Organization

Chuck Austin
President
National Chrysler
Retiree Organization

Don Whitehouse
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