



February 10, 2017

The Honorable John Larson
United States House of Representatives
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Larson,

Social Security Works strongly supports the Social Security 2100 Act. Our Social Security system provides modest but essential economic support when wages are lost as the result of death, serious and permanent disability, or old age. Social Security has enabled millions of seniors, veterans, surviving spouses, people with disabilities, children, and others to maintain their standards of living and prevented destitution since its enactment in 1935.

Social Security is the most universal, secure and efficient pension plan around, but its benefits are modest by virtually any standard. In light of the nation's looming retirement income crisis, those modest benefits should be increased and made more adequate. Your legislation does just that.

The Social Security 2100 Act wisely increases benefits across the board, while also, increasing Social Security's special minimum benefit. Those increases ensure that those who work a lifetime at low wages will not retire into poverty. To make sure that your legislation's proposed increases do not inadvertently hurt the most vulnerable among us, the so-called dual eligibles who receive both Social Security and Supplemental Security income, your legislation appropriately prohibits reductions in SSI benefits or loss of eligibility for Medicaid or SCHIP as a result of the increased Social Security benefits.

In addition to increasing benefits, your legislation adopts a more accurate cost of living increase, so that Social Security's modest benefits do not erode in value with each passing year. It also streamlines Social Security by combining the two Social Security trust funds, which are separate only as the result of historical timing and should be combined.

According to an analysis released by the Social Security Administration, your legislation will pay fully for every penny of improved benefits while restoring Social Security to long-range actuarial balance. Your legislation will ensure that today's workers, including those just entering the workforce, can rest assured that they will receive all of the Social Security benefits they are earning with every paycheck.

Thank you for your visionary proposal and for your tireless work on behalf of today's and all future Social Security beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman".

Nancy J. Altman
Founding Director
Social Security Works