



President  
**Barbara J. Easterling**

Secretary-Treasurer  
**Ruben Burks**

February 8, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write you as the national officers and the presidents of the state chapters of the Alliance for Retired Americans, a national organization of four million members dedicated to securing a better quality of life for all Americans in retirement. We believe that you have the opportunity to renew the nation's commitment to the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs during the State of the Union Address next week.

Mr. President, we were heartened by your inauguration address. It captured the long American tradition that a lifetime of hard work should create the foundation for a secure retirement. And should unfortunate circumstances visit any one of us, these vital programs are a lifeline for continued personal and family security. Your words, "The commitments we make to each other – through Medicare, and Medicaid, and Social Security – these things do not sap our initiative; they strengthen us. They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great" embody this great American tradition.

We are concerned, Mr. President, that many in Washington will try to take advantage of the nation's current fiscal situation and cause permanent damage to the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs. We strongly urge you to resist such efforts. We urge you to speak forcefully in favor of strengthened Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs.

We recognize that long term efforts will be necessary to keep these programs financially sound as well as being able to provide benefits that are adequate to maintain a dignified quality of life. However, the debate over the current fiscal situation is not the forum for addressing the future of these programs. We applaud your leadership on vital issues such as health care reform which has benefited our members. We believe you are now in a position to demonstrate that same leadership on behalf of the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs.

Sincerely yours

Handwritten signature of Barbara J. Easterling in black ink.

Barbara J. Easterling  
President

Handwritten signature of Ruben Burks in black ink.

Ruben Burks  
Secretary-Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Edward F. Coyle in black ink.

Edward F. Coyle  
Executive Director



### The Presidents of the 33 State Alliances

Douglas Hart, President  
Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans

Nan Brasmer, President  
California Alliance for Retired Americans

Rick Johnson, President  
Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans Ed Fund

Frank Lay, President  
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