



President
Barbara J. Easterling

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

February 6, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the four million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, we write to urge you to vote against the amendment to the Require a PLAN Act, H.R. 444, offered by Representatives Schrader, Wolf, Cooper and Gibson. This amendment supports using the recommendations of the Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson ("Bowles Simpson") plan as a basis for achieving the budget requirements called for in H.R. 444.

Much of the savings in this amendment comes from proposals that would balance the nation's budget on the backs of working families while pushing more and more seniors into poverty. Most notably, Bowles Simpson recommended cuts to basic Social Security benefits, including cuts to survivors and disability benefits between 19% and 42% for young people entering the workforce today. It called for cuts to the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment for both future *and* current beneficiaries. It proposed to raise the full and early retirement ages all while also requiring increased cost sharing for seniors through greater Medicare costs.

It is worth noting that when the recommendations of Bowles Simpson were put before the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform for a vote, they were rejected by Democratic and Republican members alike. Similarly, when the House had an opportunity to vote on a similar amendment last year, offered by Reps. Cooper and LaTourette, it was also rejected overwhelmingly by a 382-38 vote.

Since their creation, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid have worked to keep America's seniors healthy and out of poverty. The Alliance urges you to vote against this misguided amendment. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Fiesta or Sarah Byrne at the Alliance Department of Government and Political Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara J. Easterling".

Barbara J. Easterling
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Burks".

Ruben Burks
Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed. F. Coyle".

Edward F. Coyle
Executive Director

