



President
Barbara J. Easterling

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the four million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, we write in support of your legislation, the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act. This legislation will strengthen Social Security by ensuring its solvency for the next 50 years – all without cutting Social Security benefits.

Social Security was created as a promise that all working Americans would have a stable source of income on which they could depend on when they retired, became disabled or had survivors. Despite this promise, calls have been made to cut Social Security benefits in the name of deficit reduction – even though the program is fully funded through workers contributions and it does not add a penny to the deficit. Likewise, the program has been incorrectly described by its detractors as being on the road to financial ruins, even though Social Security has sufficient funds to pay 100% of benefits until 2033.

According to the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration, the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act builds on Social Security's solvency and actually extends it for the next 50 years. This is accomplished by asking the wealthiest Americans to contribute to Social Security on earned income above \$250,000. These additional contributions from the top 1.3% of workers would further extend Social Security's solvency without cutting benefits for *any* beneficiary.

The retirement income deficit of \$6.6 trillion demands that Social Security be strengthened now more than ever. It is essential that Congress work to strengthen – not cut – this lifeline of retirement, disability and survivors' security to ensure that Americans of all generations can count on the benefits that they have been promised.

We thank you for introducing the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act and look forward to working with you to ensure its passage. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Fiesta or Sarah Byrne at the Alliance Department of Government and Political Affairs.

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

