

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 3:39 PM

To: Ward, Mike; Keiser, Andy; Drenan, Meghan; newsletter-mi08@ls1.house.gov

Subject: Social Security Update

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you regarding recent events in Washington D.C. that affect Social Security cost-of living-adjustments. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you regarding this important issue.

As you may know, Social Security recipients typically receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in January of each year. The Department of Labor measures inflation to determine whether an increase in Social Security payment is justified. Specifically, The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is analyzed and the percentage change over the year is used to determine whether there will be a Social Security increase.

The Department of Labor recently announced that for the first time since 1975, the CPI-W has not triggered an automatic increase in benefits for individuals receiving Social Security or Veteran benefits. During these tough economic times many senior citizens and veterans are depending on the cost-of-living adjustment to make ends meet. That is why I am an original co sponsor of H.R. 3691, the Seniors and Veterans Economic Stimulus Act of 2009. This legislation would extend to 2010 the program for economic recovery payments established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and provide an additional \$250.00 dollars to senior citizens from! unspent "stimulus" money. Please be assured, I look forward to supporting this legislation should it come before me for a vote.

Like you, I believe Social Security is a solemn promise from the government to its citizens. The government must honor its pledge to America's senior citizens who rely on Social Security. By the year 2016, the cost associated with Social Security will exceed tax revenues and by 2037, the Social Security program will become exhausted and unable to pay out Social Security benefits on a timely manner according to the Trustees of the Social Security Trust Fund. By examining every Social Security reform option, I am hopeful that Congress can provide a plan that benef! its all, especially those who depend on monthly Social Security checks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contact you regarding this issue. If you have any questions or comments regarding this or any issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office by visiting my website at www.mikerogers.house.gov or by phone at (517) 702-8000.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

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