



April 1, 2005

Dear Friend:



Local AARP members visited my office this week to voice their strong opposition to President Bush's proposal to privatize Social Security. They want to strengthen Social Security now for our children and grandchildren. AARP members understand that private accounts will drain money from the system and cut guaranteed benefits while passing tremendous financial burden to future generations.

In Minnesota, there are over 765,000 Social Security beneficiaries. About two-thirds of these beneficiaries are retirees, while one-third are survivors (widows and children) and disabled workers. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities reports that 171,000 seniors in Minnesota are lifted out of poverty due to Social Security. Without Social Security, more than 43 percent of seniors in Minnesota would live in poverty.

Congress can and should secure the future of Social Security with common sense, bipartisan commitment to economic security and fiscal responsibility. This is my commitment, and you can count on me to work to protect Social Security and to find a solution that truly protects the retirement security of every American.

To read more about Social Security, please [visit my website](#) where you will find a fact sheets on Social Security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty".

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth District

To keep updated on the latest issues happening in Congress, you can sign up for my E-Newsletter by visiting my website at: <http://mccollum.house.gov/e-news>.

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