

**National
Committee to
Preserve
Social Security
and Medicare**



**Barbara B.
Kennelly
President &
Chief Executive
Officer**

June 26, 2006

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 4.6 million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to express our strong opposition to a provision of S. 3521, the *Stop Over Spending Act of 2006*, which would create the National Commission on Entitlement Solvency.

The National Commission on Entitlement Solvency created by S. 3521 is clearly designed to privatize Social Security. A majority of the 15-member Commission would be appointed by the President and leaders of his party in Congress, many of whom have already made clear their support for partially privatizing Social Security. The Commission's recommendations would be fast-tracked with limited debate and few opportunities to amend the proposals.

In addition to establishing a Commission which would fast-track privatizing Social Security, S. 3521 would put Social Security back "on budget", thus using the Social Security surplus to mask the true size of the budget deficit. The bill would also make new Social Security benefits subject to a line-item veto by the President and would subject Medicare and other entitlement programs to arbitrary and devastating cuts. The National Committee opposes these provisions.

While members of the National Committee have strong concerns about the size of our federal deficit, they are also mindful that Social Security did not create the current deficit. Moreover, they are aware that privatizing Social Security does nothing to improve its long-term solvency. Indeed, private accounts increase our federal deficit by over a trillion dollars in the first ten years alone. Therefore, we strongly urge you to reject the provision in S. 3521 establishing the National Commission on Entitlement Solvency as a vehicle for privatizing Social Security.

Cordially,

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO