

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



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

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I write to express our support for the Social Security Administration (SSA) administrative funding levels in the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 99). The budget resolution's recommendation of \$9.9 billion for SSA's LAE makes room for the appropriators to adequately fund SSA so that the agency may continue delivering vital services to the retired and disabled.

In recent years, Congress has funded SSA below the level of the President's request leading to dramatically increased disability backlogs and funding shortages that have forced SSA to cut back on continuing disability reviews. As a result, hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable in our society have endured extraordinary delays in resolving their disability benefit claims. At the end of fiscal year 2006, about 1.3 million people were awaiting a decision on their initial claim or appeal for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits.

The budget resolution's allocation of \$9.9 billion for SSA administrative funding addresses long-ignored challenges facing seniors and the disabled including large backlogs in the Social Security disability system. The budget accommodates an additional \$213 million through a discretionary cap adjustment that will allow SSA to conduct an increasing number of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs), which save the federal government \$10 for every \$1 spent. Moreover, the budget resolution provides a discretionary spending allocation to the Committee on Appropriations that is above the President's budget, allowing the appropriators to fund SSA above the level of the President's request without taking away from other programs.

Without proper funding, service delivery to the retired and disabled will continue to erode. As we prepare for the retirement of the first baby boomers in just two years, it is critically important that we provide SSA with sufficient resources to prevent any disruption of benefits and services. Again, we strongly support the FY 2008 Budget Resolution's funding allocation for SSA administrative expenses.

We applaud you for your continued leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO

