

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



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

January 29, 2007

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

Knowing you care as much as I do about Social Security, I would like to share with you my latest concern about the impact of the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuing Resolution, not only on the Social Security Administration's immediate operations, but also on the long-term survival of Social Security as an institution of social insurance.

As you know, Social Security is under attack by those who philosophically oppose its goals and would like to see it privatized. This attack has been led by the President with his continuing pressure to inject private accounts into the program. It would be unfortunate if today's strong defenders of Social Security were to unwittingly play into the hands of those who want to undermine the Social Security program. Providing insufficient funds, for even one year, creates an image of an agency in crisis and reinforces the mistaken view that the Social Security program itself is in crisis.

Social Security has for many years generated significant surpluses. Without this surplus, the budget deficit this fiscal year would be \$362 billion rather than \$172 billion according to the *Budget and Economic Outlook* report issued recently by the Congressional Budget Office. Despite this, the Social Security Administration is facing the real threat of furloughs and potential office closures unless the Continuing Resolution provides funding at least at the Fiscal Year 2007 level approved by the House Appropriations Committee in the 109th Congress. Furloughs undermine the delivery of services to 49 million Social Security beneficiaries and reinforce the privatizers' unrelenting attacks. Members of Congress who care deeply about the future of Social Security must assure that the Social Security Administration has sufficient funds to continue the uninterrupted flow of services to the men, women and children who rely on its protections.

For more than 70 years, the primary mission of the Social Security Administration has been to assure that benefits are delivered in a timely manner to retirees, people with disabilities, and their dependents. The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare strongly urges you to provide this much-needed funding for the Social Security Administration in the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuing Resolution.

Cordially,

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO