



September 17, 2020

The Honorable Joe Biden
Biden for President
P.O. Box 58174
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of its millions of members and supporters, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare enthusiastically endorses your candidacy to be elected President of the United States.

Now more than ever, Social Security and Medicare provide seniors with crucial financial and health security. In the midst of the COVID crisis, Social Security is the financial stabilizer for older workers who become disabled or are forced to retire early. Social Security also supports the economy by providing more than \$1.6 trillion in fiscal stimulus every year. Meanwhile, Medicare guarantees that COVID-stricken seniors have access to affordable, quality care and testing. When a vaccine is approved and made safe for the public, Medicare will cover that, too.

You and Senator Kamala Harris understand that seniors' earned benefits are "sacred obligations" with origins in Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society and War on Poverty. At last month's Democratic convention, you said, "If I am your president, we will protect Social Security and Medicare." As a presidential candidate dedicated to FDR's and LBJ's enduring legacies, we trust that you will honor that vow – in contrast to Donald Trump's broken promise four years ago "not to touch" seniors' earned benefits. What's more, as vice president, Kamala Harris will be uniquely positioned to advocate for women – and particularly women of color – whose retirement security lags far behind men's.

National Committee members support your plan to expand Social Security benefits, lifting an additional half a million seniors out of poverty by 2030. Your administration will ensure that Social Security remains financially healthy for the future, without cutting benefits. We appreciate that you will push Congress to add dental, vision, and hearing coverage to traditional Medicare --- and reduce what seniors pay for prescription drugs by finally allowing the government to negotiate prices with Big Pharma. The National Committee applauds your bold \$775 billion plan to support caregivers for the elderly and children. You would strengthen the Affordable Care Act, which President Trump tried to repeal and is now – during a pandemic – asking the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down.

Sadly, despite his 2016 campaign promises, President Trump, his advisors, and his allies in Congress have tried to weaken these highly successful programs. Every Trump budget has included more than a trillion dollars in cuts to Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid (which covers impoverished seniors' long-term services and supports costs). The president's appointees changed the rules to make it harder for workers with disabilities to keep their Social Security benefits, and tried to politicize the process for adjudicating disability claims.

And just last month, the president issued an executive order that unilaterally imposed a reckless payroll tax deferral. Without hesitation, he interfered with the funding stream for Social Security, going so far as to pledge to "terminate" payroll taxes altogether in his second term. Social Security's chief actuary estimates that if payroll taxes were to be terminated (without replacing the lost revenue), the program would be forced to completely stop paying benefits by 2023. A president who promises to cut off the revenue for one of our most cherished and successful social insurance programs should not be re-elected.

The National Committee commends you for calling Trump's payroll tax policy for what it is -- a "reckless war" to defund Social Security.

This is one of the most important elections in U.S. history. If the president is re-elected and his party maintains or expands its control of Congress, Social Security will be weakened, Medicaid will be slashed, traditional Medicare will end, and older Americans' lives and livelihoods will continue to be threatened. You and Senator Harris will protect older Americans' "rights and futures," including their right to retire with basic financial security, quality, affordable health care, and dignity – after a lifetime of contributing to our society. That is why your election is essential to the protection and improvement of the earned benefits of retirees, people with disabilities and survivors. For this reason, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare proudly endorses your election to serve as the 46th President of the United States.

Sincerely,



Max Richtman
President & CEO
Chairman, NCPSSM-PAC Board of Directors