



# Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

*William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair*

September 20, 2006

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

As Congress prepares the Continuing Resolution for FY 2007, we urge you to provide the Social Security Administration (SSA) with the funding necessary to prevent disruption of vital services and allow the agency to meet the growing responsibilities it faces in the future. Budgetary constraints have already resulted in the first ever moratorium on the processing of reconsideration requests in disability cases in much of the country for the last several months, turning the right to appeal into a distant prospect for people at their time of greatest need.

Sufficient funding in the past has allowed the agency to address the challenges of Hurricane Katrina, new and more intensive Social Security replacement cards procedures, the backlog in continuing disability reviews, and increased security at SSA offices. In addition, while the Social Security trust fund will eventually be reimbursed from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency must provide additional services and premium administration for the new Part D drug benefit and the income tested Part B benefit.

Approximately 49 million people receive retirement and disability benefits from Social Security and an estimated 5 million people will be affected by the new income verification requirements of the Medicare Part B and D premiums. Countless individuals, businesses and other government agencies rely on SSA's ability to protect the accuracy and integrity of SSN cards and numbers. Given the increased agency workload and the coming retirement of the Boomer generation, a disruption of services or the closing of SSA offices is of far greater consequence than ever before.

Social Security continues to downsize its labor force as its most seasoned employees retire, and new demands upon its services increase. Without proper funding levels, these two forces will eventually erode service delivery to the retired and disabled. We support funding to prevent the erosion of critical services at Social Security and hope you will be able to provide the agency's request of \$9.496 billion before Congress adjourns for the year.

Sincerely,

*AARP  
AFSCME Retiree Program  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement & Retirees  
American Postal Workers Union Retirees  
American Society on Aging  
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities*

*Families USA*  
*Gray Panthers*  
*International Union, United Auto Workers*  
*Military Officers Association of America*  
*National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys*  
*National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs*  
*National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers*  
*National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.*  
*National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors*  
*National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs*  
*National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform*  
*National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*  
*National Senior Citizens Law Center*  
*OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women*



# Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

*William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair*

September 20, 2006

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Member of Congress:

As Congress prepares the Continuing Resolution for FY 2007, we urge you to provide the Social Security Administration (SSA) with the funding necessary to prevent disruption of vital services and allow the agency to meet the growing responsibilities it faces in the future. Budgetary constraints have already resulted in the first ever moratorium on the processing of reconsideration requests in disability cases in much of the country for the last several months, turning the right to appeal into a distant prospect for people at their time of greatest need.

Sufficient funding in the past has allowed the agency to address the challenges of Hurricane Katrina, new and more intensive Social Security replacement cards procedures, the backlog in continuing disability reviews, and increased security at SSA offices. In addition, while the Social Security trust fund will eventually be reimbursed from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency must provide additional services and premium administration for the new Part D drug benefit and the income tested Part B benefit.

Approximately 49 million people receive retirement and disability benefits from Social Security and an estimated 5 million people will be affected by the new income verification requirements of the Medicare Part B and D premiums. Countless individuals, businesses and other government agencies rely on SSA's ability to protect the accuracy and integrity of SSN cards and numbers. Given the increased agency workload and the coming retirement of the Boomer generation, a disruption of services or the closing of SSA offices is of far greater consequence than ever before.

Social Security continues to downsize its labor force as its most seasoned employees retire, and new demands upon its services increase. Without proper funding levels, these two forces will eventually erode service delivery to the retired and disabled. We support funding to prevent the erosion of critical services at Social Security and hope you will be able to provide the agency's request of \$9.496 billion before Congress adjourns for the year.

Sincerely,

*AARP  
AFSCME Retiree Program  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement & Retirees  
American Postal Workers Union Retirees  
American Society on Aging  
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities*

*Families USA*  
*Gray Panthers*  
*International Union, United Auto Workers*  
*Military Officers Association of America*  
*National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys*  
*National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs*  
*National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers*  
*National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.*  
*National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors*  
*National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs*  
*National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform*  
*National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*  
*National Senior Citizens Law Center*  
*OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women*