

LEE TERRY
NEBRASKA, 2ND DISTRICT



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND THE INTERNET

REPUBLICAN DEPUTY WHIP

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1524 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4155

DISTRICT OFFICE:
11717 BURT STREET, SUITE 106
OMAHA, NE 68154
(402) 397-9944
Talk2Lee@mail.house.gov
www.house.gov/terry

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

August 4, 2008

Mr. X
1500 X Street
Omaha, Ne. 68144

Dear Mr. X:

Thank you for contacting me in regards to social security and what some politicians are claiming to be plans to 'privatize' it.

I first want to assure you that I am categorically opposed to investing social security dollars into the stock market. This would be risky and possibly very dangerous.

Social Security is a solemn commitment between our government and hard-working American citizens. It must be preserved. Unfortunately, Congress is long overdue in addressing problems plaguing the Social Security program. The sooner we address the expected Social Security shortfall, the less expensive the solution will be.

We should ensure that current recipients receive every penny promised and that tomorrow's beneficiaries can look forward to a secure retirement. That is why I have urged congressional leaders to take up legislation that would preserve Social Security for the long term.

Here is what we are facing today: There are 3.5 workers for each retiree receiving Social Security benefits. But more than 70 million "baby boomers" are nearing retirement age. By 2010, there will only be two workers for every retiree. That means that each worker will be responsible for 50% of someone else's benefits.

The Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees warn that tax revenues will fall short of benefit outlays by 2018. If no changes are made by 2040, the Social Security trust fund will be depleted, and only 73% of its benefits would be payable then with incoming receipts. Therefore, if Congress does not address the retirement portion of Social Security soon, low-to-moderate-income workers will certainly be saddled with higher taxes – or benefits will be cut.

With these very real challenges facing Social Security today and at a time when seniors are living longer, healthier lives, Congress unfortunately continues to dip into the social security trust for general fund uses. This raiding of the fund continues to further the looming demise of the funds' solvency and ultimately puts seniors hard earned social security dollars at risk.

In order to prevent the Congress from dipping into the social security fund, I believe we must explore possible solutions like the creation of separate individual accounts within the fund

in which the contributor would have individual ownership over. This would be a 'savings account' of sorts that would incur interest and would be untouchable by those Members of Congress that wished to spend it on other things.

This savings account within the social security fund would NOT be invested in any sort of markets, but yet would remain safe in individual accounts.

I believe we need to reform social security to assure it's solvency for our children. In order to achieve this we need to give individuals ownership over their hard earned dollars.

Thanks again for contacting me and please feel free to do so again in the future regarding any issue of concern to you.

Sincerely,

LEE TERRY
Member of Congress