

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 27, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to respectfully request that you publicly reject Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's recent remarks to the House Budget Committee recommending significant cuts in Social Security benefits.

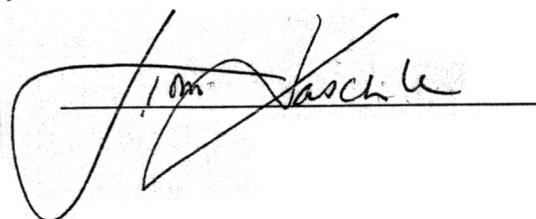
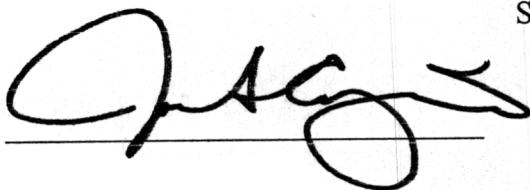
For nearly seventy years, Social Security has reflected the best of America's values. Social Security promises Americans that if you work hard, pay your taxes, and play by the rules, you will be able to retire and live in dignity. Thanks to Social Security, poverty among America's seniors has been reduced from about 50 percent to less than ten percent.

While we share Chairman Greenspan's concerns about our long-term fiscal challenges, we believe it would be wrong to balance the budget by breaking our promise to America's seniors. The Social Security Trust Fund is not in crisis; it currently is projected to remain solvent until 2042. Moreover, over the next 75 years, the entire Social Security shortfall is less than one-third the size of the tax cuts we have enacted over the past three years. It is simply wrong to claim that we can afford permanent tax breaks for the most fortunate among us, but we can't afford to honor our commitment to America's seniors.

The average monthly Social Security benefit is only about \$900 per month. While some may believe that this is too much to promise seniors who have worked hard and contributed to our nation, we disagree.

We hope you will join us in publicly rejecting the statements of Chairman Greenspan, and assure all Americans that we will not pay for tax breaks for the most fortunate by cutting Social Security benefits.

Sincerely,



Debbie Steneow

Tom Payne

Paul Salame

Herb Kohl

Robert A. Michalski

Jim Shuman

Dick Durst

Ken Lund

Byron Yu Deagan

Charles Scherer

Chris D.M.

Maria Carbone

Bill Nelson

Carl Leman