

**CWA Local 4250 RMC
Steve Tisza, President**



October 21, 2011

Social Security COLA Announcement Clouded By Looming Threat In Congress

Dear CWA Local 4250 RMC Members:

Today, the Social Security Administration announced that monthly Social Security benefits will increase 3.6 percent in 2012.

Additionally, due to an increase in average wages, the maximum amount of wages subject to the Social Security tax will increase to \$110,100 from \$106,800. About 10 million workers will pay higher taxes as a result of this increase in the Social Security payroll tax cap.

Unfortunately, an increase in Medicare premiums will likely completely or partially offset the 3.6 percent Social Security benefit increase.

Furthermore, the news is tempered by reports that the congressional "Super Committee" is considering changes to Social Security that will severely hinder retirees' ability to keep pace with the rising cost of living. The panel may recommend a new statistical formula for future cost-of-living-adjustments, one that would grossly understate the growing financial pressures on retirees.

What the proponents of the change clinically call a 'Chained-CPI,' is what millions of seniors would call 'food, shelter, clothing.' A recent study showed that, if this change took effect, a worker retiring this year, at age 65, would lose \$6,000 in benefits by the time they turned 80.

Social Security did not create our budget deficit – it is fully-funded by worker and employer payroll taxes. It is inexcusable for politicians who never met a tax break they didn't like to try to balance the budget on the backs of current and future retirees.

Here are 2 ways you can take action to protect Social Security

1. Send postcards to Congress

To send a message to your Congressperson and Senators complete the attached postcard and mail to the Illinois Alliance office at 27 E Monroe St, Ste 1100, in Chicago, 60603. To be mailed copies of the postcard, please contact Emily Stuart at [312\) 427-2114 ext. 207](tel:3124272114) or illinoisara@gmail.com.

2. Attend the Rally for Retirement Security on November 7 in Chicago

See the attached flier for more details.

Communications Workers of America Local 4250 Retired Members' Chapter
Steve G. Tisza, President Local 4250 RMC (312) 401-4250 (Cell)
stevetisza@sbcglobal.net (E-Mail)
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)

CWA Local 4250 RMC
Steve Tisza, President



Thank you for taking action!

In Solidarity,
Emily Stuart
Director
Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans

Communications Workers of America Local 4250 Retired Members' Chapter
Steve G. Tisza, President Local 4250 RMC (312) 401-4250 (Cell)
stevetisza@sbcglobal.net (E-Mail)
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)

What's at Stake with the Super Committee?

As part of the second stage of the deal, congressional leaders have appointed a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, or "Super Committee." This Committee is charged with finding an additional \$1.5 trillion in deficit cuts by November 23. The Super Committee could propose more cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other programs vital to seniors. We are concerned that the Super Committee may propose:

- ✓ Raising the Social Security age to 70
- ✓ Reducing the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
- ✓ Raising the Medicare eligibility age to 67
- ✓ Cutting the Medicaid funding that helps seniors afford long-term care
- ✓ Taking away your traditional Medicare benefits, leaving you at the mercy of insurance companies

Here is How You Can Help Save Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

Below, please write what these programs mean to you, sign your name, and send your card to the address on the back. Your State Alliance for Retired Americans will be collecting thousands of these cards and presenting them to Congress. For more information on how you can get involved, go to <http://www.retiredamericans.org/>

Please cut along this line.

I'm writing this note to share with you what Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare mean to me and my family. I am counting on you to support and protect these vital programs and vote against any cuts to them. Please make sure that these programs will be here for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____





IT IS TIME

To Go

BACK TO THE STREETS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

JANE ADDAMS SENIOR CAUCUS RALLY AND MARCH

**NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 10:15AM TO 12PM
AT FEDERAL PLAZA (ADAMS & DEARBORN)**

STAND UNITED WITH SENIORS AND URGE OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- DO NOT BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF AMERICA'S SENIORS
- DO NOT CUT VITAL SAFETY-NET PROGRAMS
- INCREASE REVENUES AS A MEANS OF REDUCING THE FEDERAL DEFICIT
- PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND HUD PROGRAMS
- PASS A BUDGET THAT PROTECTS THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

FOR MORE INFO: CALL 312-427-2114 EXT 207 EMILY STUART, ILLINOIS ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

CO-SPONSORS: ACCESS LIVING, BICKERDIKE, CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY, IL - ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS, KENWOOD OAKLAND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, LAKEVIEW ACTION COALITION, METROPOLITAN TENANTS ORGANIZATION, NORTHSIDE P.O.W.E.R., ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHEAST, SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION – HEALTH CARE, SOUTHSIDE TOGETHER ORGANIZING FOR POWER, AND SOUTHSIDERS ORGANIZED FOR UNITY AND LIBERATION