



July 21, 2004

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, I am writing to thank you for your continuing support of the Social Security and Medicare programs by introducing the "Social Security COLA Protection Act of 2004."

We understand that the purpose of the bill is to ensure that no more than 25 percent of a Social Security beneficiary's annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) could be depleted by increases in Medicare premiums. This means that at least 75 percent of the COLA would be available for beneficiaries to meet the rising costs of other necessary expenditures. The Medicare Part B premium has already been increasing substantially more than Social Security COLAs over the past few years. Any further erosion of the COLA could have devastating effects on millions of America's seniors who are already struggling to meet their basic as well as health care needs.

Thank you again for introducing this bill. The Alliance for Retired Americans looks forward to working with you on this and other legislation that are important to older Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward F. Coyle".

Edward F. Coyle  
Executive Director