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U.S. House of Representatives

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January 23, 2004

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SENIORS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION

Dear Democratic Colleague:

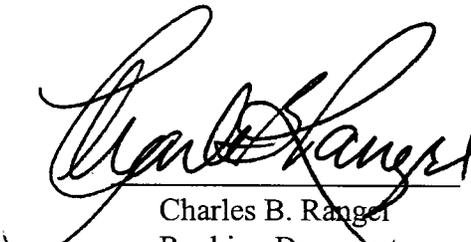
We would like to bring to your attention the results of a recent National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM) poll that ran in *USA Today* earlier this week. When asked if they support the privatization of Social Security, the membership of the NCPSSM almost unanimously said "No." But despite this overwhelming opposition from seniors, the President reiterated his desire to privatize Social Security in his State of the Union speech.

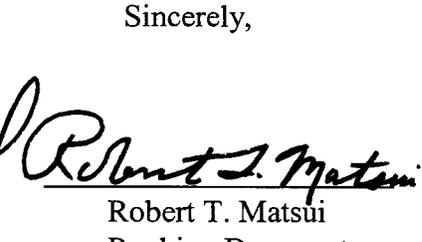
Social Security is the most important source of retirement in the U.S. For 6 in 10 seniors, Social Security provides half or more of their total income. Diverting a portion of workers payroll taxes to personal accounts will require benefit cuts for current and future beneficiaries and undermines Social Security as the bedrock of retirement security for America's workers.

The recently enacted Republican Medicare bill provides clear evidence that this Administration and Congressional Republicans fully intend to privatize and undermine this country's most successful and popular programs. Medicare was their first step and Social Security is their next goal.

Despite the negative response from seniors to the privatization provisions in the Republican Medicare bill and the overwhelming opposition to Social Security privatization, Republicans in Congress and the Administration continue to push this agenda. Democrats will continue to aggressively defend and protect these programs. America's seniors support our efforts and after a lifetime of hard work, they expect and deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,


Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Democrat


Robert T. Matsui
Ranking Democrat
Subcommittee on
Social Security


Pete Stark
Ranking Democrat
Subcommittee on
Health

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION: WHAT AMERICA'S SENIOR VOTERS REALLY THINK!

A message from Barbara B. Kennelly, President and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and former member of Congress:

The National Committee, one of the nation's largest senior organizations dedicated solely to advocacy and education, with millions of members and supporters, recently asked its members whether they support current proposals to transition Social Security into a partially privatized program, whereby workers place a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes into private investment accounts.

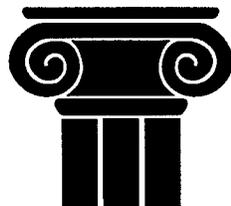
Here is how our members responded:

Do you favor diverting some Social Security payroll taxes into privately invested individual accounts, where benefits would be tied to the performance of market investments, such as stocks and bonds?

99.5% NO

We respectfully submit the results of our Official Ballot on Social Security Privatization for the careful consideration of Congress and the 2004 candidates. Further, we appeal to all American voters to urge the Administration and Congress to preserve and protect Social Security's guaranteed benefits.

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO



**National Committee to
Preserve Social Security
and Medicare**

**To make your voice heard through the
National Committee, please call 1-800-966-1935
or visit us online at www.ncpssm.org**

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, 10 G Street, NE, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20002-4215. The National Committee is 100% member supported and is independent of Congress, every government agency, and all political parties.