

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2015

Carolyn W. Colvin.
Acting Commissioner of Social Security
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Commissioner Colvin:

We are writing to express our concern regarding recent reports that Social Security beneficiaries may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2016. We believe the absence of a COLA would further strain the limited resources afforded to our nation's seniors and we urge the Administration to ensure that seniors receive the resources necessary to support themselves in 2016.

For 80 years, Social Security has been a promise to America's citizens that they could retire with dignity. Seniors have earned their Social Security benefits after a lifetime of hard work, and we have the responsibility to protect this critical safety net for them in their retirement years. COLAs are vital for our seniors to keep up with the rising costs of medical care, prescription drugs, and housing. The absence of a COLA this year would not only harm America's seniors, but would place undue burden on those who support them, including family and care taking professionals.

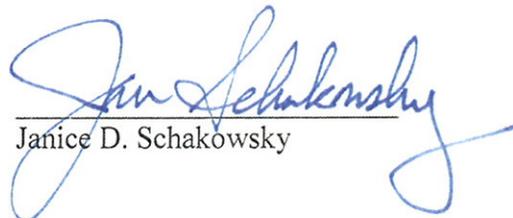
We also believe strongly that the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) as the calculation for cost-of-living increases for Americans aged 62 and older as this CPI would more accurately reflect the spending patterns of the elderly than the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The CPI-E grows faster than the current COLA calculation on average, due to a larger portion of spending by the elderly on health care expenditures and other items with prices that tend to rise more rapidly. The CPI-E has increased by an average of about 0.2 percentage points faster than the CPI-W or the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since 1982.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment to beneficiaries across the country. We urge you to continue advocating for seniors by supporting policies that would include an annual COLA for America's elderly citizens in the future.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline



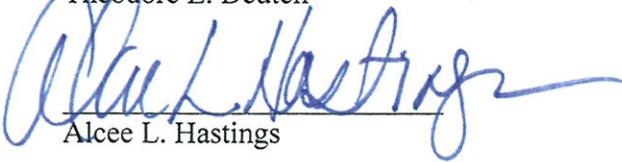
Janice D. Schakowsky



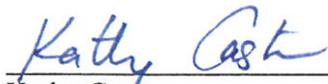
Michael M. Honda



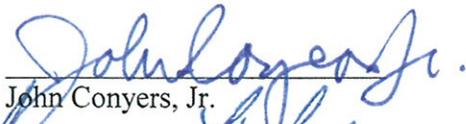
Theodore E. Deutch



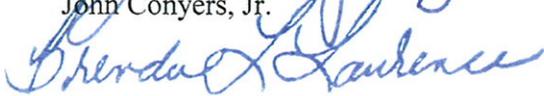
Alcee L. Hastings



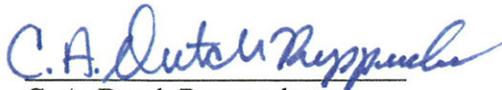
Kathy Castor



John Conyers, Jr.



Brenda L. Lawrence



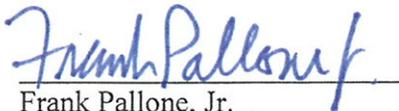
C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger



Nita M. Lowey



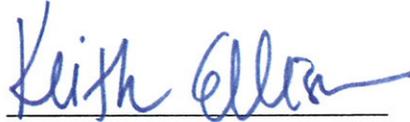
Barbara Lee



Frank Pallone, Jr.



Luis V. Gutierrez



Keith Ellison



Matt Cartwright



Juan Vargas



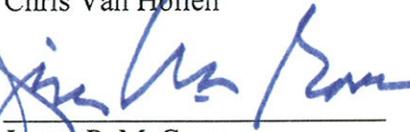
Dave Loebsack



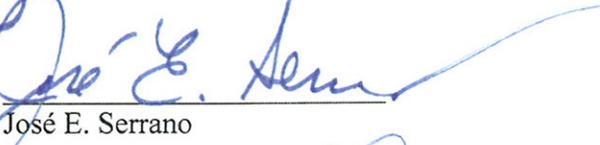
Patrick E. Murphy



Chris Van Hollen



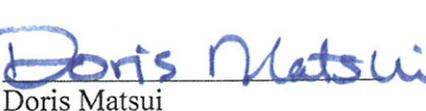
James P. McGovern



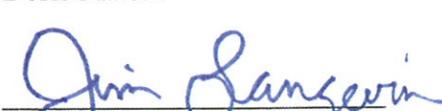
José E. Serrano



Lois Frankel



Doris Matsui



James R. Langevin

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards

Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

Cedric L. Richmond

Cedric L. Richmond

Katherine M. Clark

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Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore

Michael F. Doyle

Michael F. Doyle

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Jim Costa

Jim Costa

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Janice Hahn

Janice Hahn

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell

Terri A. Sewell

Terri A. Sewell

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas