

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

...don't cut it.

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member House Ways and Means Committee
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

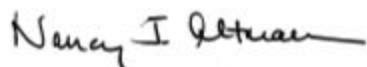
Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

The Strengthen Social Security Coalition is comprised of over 350 national and state organizations including leading seniors', disability, women's, labor, civil rights, veterans', and other groups, and representing more than 50 million Americans. We strongly oppose the use of SSI cuts as a pay-for for the upcoming reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. While we support the MIECHV reauthorization, we oppose helping one vulnerable group by hurting another. Ways and Means Committee members should find another way to pay for the reauthorization.

Millions of seniors and disabled Americans receive SSI benefits. Cutting the program for recipients will cause many to become homeless, and others to end their ability to pay nursing home costs. This cruel cut to SSI is deceptively misnamed; it is wrong to take benefits away from Americans who are neither fleeing nor felons. This policy presumes guilt and will wrongly punish innocent Americans.

The United States is wealthy enough to support the modest visiting care program and fully fund modest, but essential SSI payments. We strongly urge you not to use H.R. 2792 as a pay-for in reauthorizing MIECHV.

Sincerely,



Nancy Altman

Coalition Chair