

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY **...don't cut it.**

March 7, 2017

Strengthen Social Security Coalition
1440 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

The Strengthen Social Security Coalition is comprised of over 350 national and state organizations, including veterans', women's, and labor groups, representing over 50 million Americans, including millions of seniors. We are writing in strong opposition to the House Republican plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. This plan demonstrates a clear attack on all Americans including millions of seniors and veterans, who have worked hard and contributed all their lives.

Seniors aged 65 and over, as well as people with serious disabilities, rely on Medicare, which will be seriously weakened by this proposal. The Republican bill to repeal the ACA drains Medicare of needed revenue, while giving an estimated \$525 billion of tax breaks to wealthy Americans and corporations.

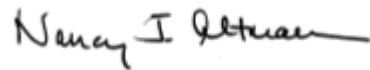
Those close to 65 will have more difficulty obtaining insurance and face higher healthcare costs upon the implementation of this legislation. In addition to slowing the cost of health care generally, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) limited the amount that insurance companies could charge seniors for healthcare. Upon repeal, insurance companies will be free to implement the ageist policy that increases the amount paid by seniors for no reason other than their age.

Medicaid is another program vital to seniors and people with disabilities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has found that at least 70 percent of seniors will need long-term care at some point. Medicaid currently pays for the long-term care of more than 60 percent of nursing home residents. With the drastic changes to Medicaid included in the repeal bill, seniors needing long term care and their families will be seriously hurt. If the House plan were to become law, those voting for it will send many American families, with a relative who needs long term care, into debt or financial ruin. By destroying Medicaid this legislation is additionally an assault on Medicare and Social Security, as many Americans are beneficiaries of all these programs. This is not reflective of American values or what the American people voted for in November.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act will eliminate vital healthcare coverage for millions of Americans, including seniors, who have earned the right to live in dignity. We will not stand by as Americans are under attack. We urge all members of Congress to vote against this attack on our health care.

We look forward to working with you to stop the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Nancy J. Altman, Founding Co-Director
Strengthen Social Security Coalition