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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
October 8, 2013

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AVIATION  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

Please find enclosed a letter from more than 50 Republican members of the House advocating for addressing Social Security as part of the current fiscal discussions. The list of signers ranges from across the ideological spectrum of our conference. Our letter also echoes your recent statements calling for a broader fiscal deal.

Fixing Social Security would send a strong message to the financial markets that we are willing to responsibly address our nation's long-term fiscal issues. Seniors would know that we intend to save and secure this vital, popular program and the American people would see that we are still capable of governing on the big issues.

Below are some of my thoughts on any potential legislation. These thoughts are mine alone and not the signatories of the attached letter, but I wanted to present these to you, as empirical studies have stated that utilizing each of these policy levers would likely preserve Social Security's solvency for the next 75 years.

- Continuing and expanding the phase-in of raising the retirement age
- Adjusting the inflation formula used for calculating future growth
- Means-testing benefits for high income recipients of Social Security
- Gradually restoring the cap on wages subject to FICA to its Reagan-era levels

Yesterday the President's senior economic policy advisors made statements on the White House's willingness to accept a short-term increase of the debt ceiling. I would advocate for passing a six-week debt ceiling increase to allow packaging Social Security solvency legislation with a long-term debt ceiling increase that would follow.

I believe this course of action could be a viable solution to our current fiscal stalemate as well as our nation's long-term budget health. Most importantly, it would also ensure the economic security of our nation's seniors. I appreciate your consideration, and am willing to assist you and the conference in moving past our current standoff and onto improving the lives of our constituents.

Respectfully yours,

Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress

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Dear Speaker Boehner,

We believe that the ongoing fiscal discussions in Congress provide an opportunity to address entitlement program deficits. With our limited time frame to take action before we run up against fiscal deadlines, and the growing long-term solvency issues for these vital programs, we urge you to use this window to preserve the long-term viability of Social Security.

Many budget advocacy organizations on all sides of the political spectrum have stated recently that Social Security is the most straight forward entitlement program to address. It has a relatively few, well-known options that can ensure the program's long-term stability. Making responsible, sensible changes today will put the program on a path to solvency for current and future generations. Waiting and ignoring these problems until they're a crisis would be a disservice to seniors, taxpayers, and the promise of Social Security. We should not allow this to occur.

Virtually everyone recognizes that our nation's entitlement programs are the primary, long-term drivers of our debt. Social Security provides us the best opportunity to begin solving our nation's significant budget imbalances in an era of divided government. By addressing this issue we can take a significant step toward preserving this crucial program and restoring the public's faith in this institution's ability to work for the American people.

We believe Congress should start now, and we are willing to help you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reid J. Ribble".

Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress

cc: Majority Leader Cantor, Majority Whip McCarthy

Chris Steward UT-2

Scott Riey VA-2

W. J. Miller SC-5

Brenton TX-17

Scott Roberts IN-04

John P. ... FL-02

John ... CA-01

Ricky ... MD-4

Cheryl ... IL-14

Tom ... SC-7

Bob ... OH-7

Cynthia ... Wyo.

Marie ... NV-2

John ... PA-05

Harshad ...

Jim ... AK-2

Pat Woodhill GA-7

Les ...

Jeff ... IL-15

Jim ... CA-45

Bob ... ND

Gene ... AZ-3

... IL-16

Jim ... OK-1

Bob ... FL-6

Tom ... AZ-22

Paul [unclear] IN-3  
John Kelly AZ

Leo S. [unclear] FL-03

[unclear] CO-3

[unclear] OH-15

[unclear] IA-9

Kim [unclear] FL-11

[unclear] FL-15

[unclear] ND-01

[unclear] FL-01

[unclear] CT-2

Bill [unclear] MI-02

Shirley [unclear] MS-4

[unclear] WI-3

Susan [unclear] MS

John [unclear] FL-17

Andy [unclear] KY-06

Phil [unclear] GA-11

AUSTON SCOTT CA-8

[unclear] IL-18

[unclear] MS-01

[unclear] CO-4

Devi [unclear] CA-22

[unclear] OH-16

Current Signers (51): Amodei, Barr, Blackburn, Bridenstine, Brooks, Campbell, Chaffetz, Cramer, DeSantis, Flores, Gardner, Gibbs, Gingrey, Griffin, Harris, Hartzler, Huizenga, Hultgren, Kelly, Kinzinger, LaMalfa, Lummis, Miller (FL), Mullin, Mulvaney, Nugent, Nunnelee, Nunes, Palazzo, Petri, Reed, Renacci, Ribble, Rice, Rigell, Rokita, Rooney, Ross, Schock, Scott, Shimkus, Southerland, Stewart, Stivers, Stutzman, Thompson (PA) Tipton, Womack, Woodall, Yoho, Young (IN)