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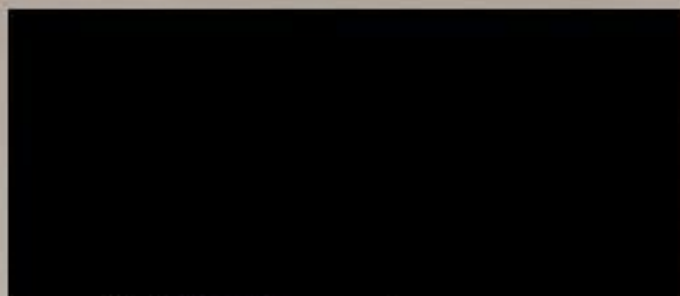
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COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



Thank you for contacting me regarding the preservation of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in the federal budget. I appreciate hearing from you about these important issues.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid make up the critical social safety net that must be protected, saved, and strengthened. From a budgetary perspective, these programs are growing at an unsustainable rate and have been far before the recent economic downturn which dramatically increased the number of individuals that rely on them. As a result, nearly 70% of all federal spending will go towards Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for FY2014. Thus, any serious proposal to reduce both the federal budget deficit and our national debt must begin with reforming and strengthening these critical programs.

On March 12, 2013, the House Budget Committee introduced the FY 2014 House Budget Resolution, "The Path to Prosperity: A Responsible, Balanced Budget." This budget puts our nation on the path to a balanced budget in just 10 years – all without raising taxes. Furthermore, it expands opportunities in areas like energy, protects and strengthens Medicare and Social Security, reforms our broken tax code by lowering rates and closing loopholes and gives states the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of their unique populations. Taken together, these changes will not only help create an environment that promotes job creation but will also ensure that the social safety net that many Americans rely on is strong for generations to come. I voted in favor of the FY2014 House Budget Resolution when it passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 221-207. It now awaits consideration by the Senate.

This budget is proof that we can responsibly and gradually solve our nation's problems if we adhere to one basic directive from the American people: Washington should stop spending money it doesn't have. Be assured, I will keep your thoughts in mind as we move forward with the FY 2014 budget process and will continue to protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Again, I appreciate hearing from you. It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives.