

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

May 21, 2009

Mr. Louis Ambrose
Executive Director
Council of Seniors
5235 Westview Drive, Suite 100
Frederick, Maryland 21703-8397

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

Thank you for contacting me about Social Security and the Social Security Trust Fund. I appreciate hearing from you about this important issue.

I understand your concerns about how the Social Security surplus is invested and used each year by the federal government. As you may know, any taxes collected by the Social Security Administration that are not used to pay benefits are lent to the federal government's general fund. This money is then used to fund other government programs. However, the Social Security Trust Fund holds government bonds - which the federal government must honor and pay back when the Social Security Administration needs extra money.

I want you to know that in the past I have supported legislation that would create a Social Security and Medicare "lockbox." This would prevent the Trust Fund from being used to pay for other programs or for tax breaks. I believe that we need to maintain our commitment to Social Security and Medicare and assure that there are funds available there when today's workers retire.

You can be sure that I will continue the fight so that all Americans have a sound and secure retirement income. I will also continue working to make sure we have the necessary resources for Social Security and Medicare now and in the future.

Mr. Louis Ambrose

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Thanks again for getting in touch with me. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara A. Mikulski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:db