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**Congress of the United States**

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Carl Hagen  
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Dear Carl,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Medicare and Social Security. I agree these are vital programs and I appreciate hearing your concerns.


Providing adequate, affordable health care is a very pressing issue in this nation. In November 2003, Congress passed the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, which creates a voluntary prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2006, while allowing those who wish the right to stay with their current coverage. The legislation provided 40 million seniors covered by Medicare federal assistance in paying for prescription drugs. Part D represents the most aggressive and comprehensive expansion of the Medicare program since its creation. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 90 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled in this program and 80 percent are satisfied with the savings found.

Similarly, our Social Security system supports 49.1 million seniors in retirement. I remain committed to strengthening Social Security. As proposals are submitted to reform this system, it is imperative we keep focused on keeping our seniors' retirement secure and ensuring the long-term stability of this program. I will not support reforms that raise payroll taxes, reduce benefits or raise the retirement age.

Lastly, fiscal discipline plays a very important part in preserving the integrity of Medicare and Social Security. Irresponsible Washington spending is the biggest threat to Social Security and Medicare as well as long term economic growth and our efforts to pay down the national debt. This is why I will look to support policies to ensure transparency, soundness and sustainability in these programs so important to seniors and the disabled.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns about Medicare and Social Security. Like you, I believe that Medicare and Social Security should be defended and protected. Please feel free to contact me in the future should you have any additional concerns.

Very truly yours,

  
Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress