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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0553

December 1, 2009

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY PERSONNEL
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING
AND COMPETITIVENESS
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ELECTIONS

Mr. Thomas Cromwell
5235 Westview Drive Suite 100
Frederick, MD 21703

Dear Thomas,

Thank you for taking time to share your thoughts about the Fiscal Year 2010 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). I apologize for the delay in my response—I receive over 2,000 pieces of mail a week and it often takes me longer to reply than I would like.

Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are calculated based on a price index to ensure that Social Security benefits keep pace with inflation. COLAs have been distributed every year since 1975 because of rising inflation. The reason beneficiaries will not be receiving a cost-of-living-adjustment for Fiscal Year 2010 is that prices of a wide variety of consumer goods have decreased and the cost-of-living has declined due to the severe economic recession.

The shock of this economic recession has been felt by individuals and families all across the country. You may be pleased to know that I have taken action to help struggling seniors cope with these difficult times. Most recently, I voted to pass H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, to prevent Medicare Part B premiums from increasing due to the lack of COLA. It has passed the House and is currently awaiting action from the Senate. I also voted for the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which included a one time Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment of \$250.

You may be interested to know that H.R. 3122, the Social Security COLA Fix for 2010 Act, has been introduced in the House to provide a \$150 increase to compensate for the lack of COLA this year. Rest assured, I am carefully monitoring the bill as it moves through the legislative process and will be sure to keep your support in mind should it come to the House floor for a vote.

I will continue to advocate for the needs of senior citizens like yourself in the 111th Congress. As your representative, I both need and value your perspective. Please sign up for my E-Newsletter on my website, www.house.gov/susandavis, if you would like to receive monthly updates about what is happening in Congress.

With warm regards,


SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress