

# SOCIAL SECURITY WORKS/WASHINGTON

*Aerospace Machinists District Lodge  
751 Retirement Club*

*AFT Washington Retirees Chapter,  
AFL-CIO*

*American Federation of Government  
Employees Local 3937  
APALA, Seattle Chapter*

*Coalition of Labor Union Women,  
Puget Sound Chapter*

*Economic Opportunity Institute  
Health Care for All-WA*

*National Organization for Women,  
Seattle Chapter  
Northwest Carpenters*

*Office and Professional Employees  
International Union Local 8*

*Older Women's League Seattle/King  
County*

*Physicians for a National Health  
Program, Western Washington chapter*

*Pride At Work, Martin Luther King  
County Chapter*

*Puget Sound Alliance for  
Retired Americans*

*Puget Sound Sage  
Retired Public Employees  
Council of Washington*

*SEIU Healthcare 775NW  
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW*

*SEIU Local 6  
SEIU Local 925*

*SEIU Washington State Council*

*Tacoma Alliance for Retired  
Americans (Pierce County)*

*UAW Local 4121*

*UFCW Local 21*

*UFCW Local 81*

*Unite HERE Local 8, AFL-CIO*

*Washington Alliance for  
Retired Americans*

*Washington Association of Churches*

*Washington Community  
Action Network*

*Washington State Jobs with Justice*

*Washington State Labor  
Council – AFL/CIO*

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## Press Release

Date: 11/30/2010 09:00 a.m.

Contact: Robby Stern, (206)448-9646, [president@psara.org](mailto:president@psara.org)

SEATTLE – Members of Social Security Works Washington, a statewide coalition of more than 30 groups representing over 750,000 Washington residents, are calling on Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell today to defend Social Security from budget cuts to be proposed tomorrow by a national fiscal commission.

As part of National Call Congress Day, members of Social Security Works and organizations like it from across the country are reminding their Senators that Social Security hasn't contributed a dime to the federal deficit. With pensions now a relic of the past for most workers, many 401(k)s evaporated by a tumultuous stock market, and housing prices stagnant or in decline nationwide, Social Security is the only remaining guarantee of economic security for millions of Americans of all ages. By reducing overall benefit payments, the Bowles-Simpson proposal would likely push millions of people – especially those who have worked in physically demanding jobs – into poverty.

Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, co-chairs of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, released a draft report that recommended cutting Social Security benefits and increasing the retirement age for today's workers, and a final proposal from the commission is due to Congress tomorrow. "Balancing the budget on the backs of middle-class and low-income people is morally wrong and fiscally irresponsible," says Robby Stern, President of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans and member of Social Security Works Washington. "We've got one message for Congress: we will not stand for cuts to Social Security or increases to the retirement age. Not for ourselves, not for our kids, not for our grandkids."

Members of Social Security Works are urging Senators to honor Social Security's pledge to working Americans who have paid into the program and earned their future benefits. Instead of cutting Social Security, the group supports increasing benefits for the lowest earners and making other modest changes so the program work better for today's seniors and working families. These improvements could be financed by eliminating the cap on taxable earnings, currently set at \$106,800. Lifting the cap would also send a message to today's young workers that Social Security will be there through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and provide them with a secure retirement, too.

People wishing to call their Senators can reach them toll free at 1-866-529-7630.

*Social Security Works/Washington is a statewide coalition of labor, women's and retiree groups, determined to defend and improve Social Security in the face of the gravest threat to its integrity in the 75 years since it was signed into law. The coalition was organized in response to appointment of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, a majority of whose 18 members have signaled that they're prepared to bleed the Social Security trust fund to reduce the federal budget deficit.*