

Keep Fundamental Structure and Intent of Social Security

June 22, 2005: In 2004, the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) passed a resolution Reaffirming the Importance of Our Nation's Social Insurance System (Social Security and Medicare). As Congress continues to debate the issue of Social Security, contact your Members and urge them to support the General Assembly's call to reaffirm the importance of Social Security and Medicare.

Ask your Representative and Senators to heed the Assembly's call by "supporting and maintaining the fundamental structure and intent of Social Security, expressly that it continue to be

- * universal, covering all persons in paid employment and their families,
- * compulsory, requiring all working Americans to contribute to our future security,
- * an earned right, based on contributions out of past earnings rather than charity,
- * contributory and self-financed, out of dedicated taxes, e.g. wage-related rather than means tested,
- * protected against inflation, by periodic, guaranteed, cost-of-living adjustments, and
- * backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, rather than depending on the erratic performance of the stock market or the unpredictable financial stability and profit interests of a private company." (Minutes, 2004, Part I, p. 800)

To learn more about faith perspectives on Social Insurance, view the May/June 2005 edition of Church and Society Magazine, Social Insurance: A Covenant Between a Government and Its People at <http://www.pcusa.org/health/usa/advocacy/index.htm>

--Carolynn Race

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Dear Senator/Representative:

As a Presbyterian, I am writing to urge you to support our nation's social insurance programs - specifically Social Security and Medicare. In 2004, the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) passed a resolution Reaffirming the Importance of Our Nation's Social Insurance System (Social Security and Medicare). As Congress continues to debate the issue of Social

Security, I urge you to heed the call of the General Assembly by supporting and maintaining the fundamental structure and intent of Social Security, expressly that it continue to be

universal, covering all persons in paid employment and their families,

compulsory, requiring all working Americans to contribute to our future security,

an earned right, based on contributions out of past earnings rather than charity,

contributory and self-financed, out of dedicated taxes, e.g. wage-related rather than means tested,

protected against inflation, by periodic, guaranteed, cost-of-living adjustments, and

backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, rather than depending on the erratic performance of the stock market or the unpredictable financial stability and profit interests of a private company.

General Assemblies have long spoken out about the importance of accessible, affordable health care and economic security, and our responsibility as people of faith care for one another. In 1983, the 195th General Assembly noted that, we "envision social programs that embody the virtues of interdependence and stewardship, and we commit ourselves to work for their enactment." The Assembly added, "In providing for the physical and social needs of older adults, we strive for a society that is thoughtful and equitable in the distribution of resources, neither shortsighted nor biased but responsive to the needs of all, especially the poor and vulnerable."

The 2004 Assembly resolution reaffirms these aims - noting that Medicare and Social Security were enacted to promote the general welfare, and to assure a guaranteed income and health care for the workers of the United States. In the resolution, the Assembly also urges you and other national leaders to support and maintain the fundamental structure and intent of Social Security.

Thank you.

Sincerely,