

Don't let Washington Cut Social Security and Veterans Benefits

Some in Washington are pushing a budget proposal that would cut Social Security and benefits for disabled veterans and military retirees by \$129 billion over the next 10 years. Americans deserve better than shortsighted cuts to their hard-earned benefits. They deserve a separate conversation about how to protect Social Security for today's seniors and strengthen the program for future generations.

The "chained CPI" proposal would cut the yearly cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and retired and disabled veterans' benefits, leaving seniors and veterans struggling to keep up with the rising cost of utilities, health care and prescription drugs. It would reduce benefits by larger amounts every year, hurting seniors and veterans more as they age and their retirement savings start to run out. Instead of trying to reduce the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for a typical senior who has an income of \$20,000 per year and benefits for veterans who sacrificed for our nation, Washington should find responsible ways to address our nation's budget challenges.

Top 5 reasons why the chained CPI is the wrong solution

- 1. It's a benefit cut.** The chained CPI is a significant benefit cut, not some "technical change" as some in Washington would like you to believe.
- 2. Cuts get deeper every year.** The chained CPI would cut benefits more with every passing year, costing seniors, veterans and our nation's most vulnerable thousands of dollars over their lifetimes.
- 3. It cuts benefits for today's seniors.** Most politicians promised during the 2012 campaign not to cut Social Security for current seniors. The chained CPI would break that promise, cutting benefits that today's seniors have earned through a lifetime of hard work.
- 4. It's less accurate for seniors.** The chained CPI assumes that when the cost of something you normally buy goes up, you will substitute a lower-cost item. This theory falls short since many seniors and veterans spend much of their money on basic goods like prescription drugs, utilities and health care – items that don't have lower-cost substitutes.
- 5. It's the wrong solution.** Americans deserve a separate, national conversation about how to protect Social Security for today's seniors and responsibly strengthen it for their kids and grandkids.

Call 1-866-584-3909 and tell Washington to reject any budget proposal that cuts hard-earned Social Security and VA benefits.