COMMITTEES: **APPROPRIATIONS** BUDGET

HOMELAND SECURITY AND **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS** AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14th, 2011

Dear Mr. President.

On Tuesday, we were disappointed to hear you say that you could not guarantee payment of Social Security benefits to the elderly. You similarly used frightening comments towards past and present members of the military and their families. This is an unfortunate political tactic. In fact, your late entry into negotiations regarding the debt ceiling and the financial future of our nation reveals your lack of serious attention to this issue.

A responsible leader would have been fully engaged and negotiating in good faith months ago. A responsible leader would have developed a serious budget proposal, not one that lost by a vote of 0-97 in the United States Senate which is controlled by members of your own party. A responsible leader would have insisted that the Senate comply with the law and pass a budget on time.

Instead, you have been engaged in political theater, demagoguery, and a dangerous game of political chicken. And now you are playing your trump card...threatening America's most vulnerable citizens.

For decades, members of your party have used Social Security as a political weapon, telling seniors that Republicans want to destroy it, and your party will protect it. During your Presidency, you have added \$4 trillion to our national debt and maxed out our nation's credit card. You have done nothing to address the pending insolvency of Social Security, even rejecting your own Fiscal Commission's recommendation. You have yet to make a single proposal to save Social Security and yet you continue to scare seniors.

It's time to tell the American people the truth. It's time to seriously address the financial future of America. It's time to stop scaring seniors and the American people. It's time to pass a Constitutional Amendment that will limit the size of government and balance America's budget.

Hopefully within a few days, the House will pass the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act and send it to the Senate. It will give you the increase in the debt ceiling that you are requesting, contingent upon us actually fixing the problem. It will cut spending next year, cap spending over the next ten years, and increase the debt ceiling once a Constitutional Amendment had been passed and sent to the States for ratification.

It's time to end business as usual here in Washington and let the American people decide.

Sincerely,

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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