

LEG. SOC. SEC. - ~~BURDETTE~~

October 22, 1974

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
11 1/2 S. Steuben Street  
Chanute, Kansas 66720

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your note concerning the Social Security cost-of-living increase.

As you probably know, there was a proposed cost-of-living Social Security increase that was brought into effect in June 1973, and with this additional increase, Social Security payments have been increased more than 50 percent over the last four years. At the same time, however, inflation has decreased the buying power of these payments so that in effect many of our older citizens who are dependent upon fixed incomes, have not received the real benefits of these increases.

I have heard from many of our elderly citizens in Kansas who are feeling the impact of inflation, and I have consistently supported and sponsored legislation that would lift the income limitation to higher and more reasonable levels. I have also joined as a cosponsor of Senator Gurney's bill, S. 817, which would totally abolish the income limitation. I share the concern too, with the lack of assurance in the program that those who pay in will receive equivalent benefits once they become eligible.

There is a new Federal program called Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which began in January 1974, and which is in addition to the regular Social Security retirement and disability benefits. It guarantees a minimum monthly income to people who are 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Eligibility is based on income and assets, rather than on Social Security work credit. Applications for SSI benefits are processed and benefits are determined at the local level. The people in your local Social Security office can offer more detailed information about payments under this program.

Please be assured of my continued interest and support; and if I may assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
United States Senate

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