



601 E Street, NW | Washington, DC 20049
202-434-2277 | 1-888-OUR-AARP | 1-888-687-2277 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org | twitter: @aarp | facebook.com/aarp | youtube.com/aarp

June 15, 2015

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
U.S. House of Representatives
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Buchanan and Blumenauer:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members nationwide and all Americans age 50 and older, AARP would like to take this opportunity to express our support for your bill to protect seniors from having their income offset based on Social Security Administration (SSA) allegations of decades old overpayments when they were children. AARP appreciates your commitment to providing fair treatment for seniors and their families.

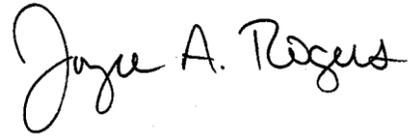
As you know, last year, the Washington Post reported that the Social Security Administration, in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service, was offsetting certain seniors' tax refunds to "pay back" amounts claimed due to Social Security. Reportedly, according to SSA, some seniors may have received Social Security benefits when they were children, either directly or through their parents, and SSA, decades later, is obligated by law to recover the alleged overpayments. According to the stories of these seniors, they had no knowledge of the overpayments, SSA had not sought recovery of the alleged overpayments close to the time of the alleged overpayment, and now, decades later, the seniors had no memory or records to refute SSA's allegations. Despite numerous requests, SSA has not rectified this unfair situation and, therefore, we are pleased that you are introducing legislation to make clear that SSA cannot recover alleged overpayments made to children under age 18.

Social Security is a critical program for tens of millions of seniors and their families, who have worked a lifetime to earn needed retirement benefits. Social Security provides the bulk of retirement income for approximately 2/3 of all seniors. Like you, we strongly support the integrity of the Social Security program. However, in fairness to these often low-income seniors, we do not believe it reasonable to offset their limited resources over modest benefits they may have received decades ago erroneously as children.

Once again, AARP commends you for your commitment to fair treatment for millions of seniors. We look forward to working with you to enact this important bill. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me, or have your

staff contact Michele Varnhagen in our Government Affairs Department at (202) 434-3829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs