

Dear Friend,

A dollar doesn't get you as much as it used to—a fact that seniors on fixed incomes feel particularly acutely. Despite that, there was no cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients for two years in a row. This year, projections show that there will be a small cost-of-living increase for seniors on Social Security – an increase that many beneficiaries will never receive.

By law, people covered by both Medicare and Social Security must have the cost of their Medicare Part B premiums deducted from their Social Security payments. For seniors who receive both Medicare and Social Security (an estimated 45 million people), the cost of Medicare premiums is rising so rapidly that they will eclipse the annual cost-of-living adjustment, leaving them without an increase for the third year in a row.

We need common-sense solutions – not red tape and bureaucracy that actually cost our seniors more money instead of helping them afford their basic needs. In Congress, I am fighting to ensure seniors get the cost-of-living increases they need. That's why I've cosponsored legislation that would create a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers, which would include expenditures that are common for senior citizens. Seniors are paying more for things like energy bills and prescription drugs. Cost-of-living increases could be based on this more accurate figure, which would take these higher costs, including Medicare premiums, into account.

After years of paying into Social Security, no senior should have to worry about making ends meet.

For more information on my work in Congress fighting for seniors, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress