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May 28, 2013

Dear Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine,

For years, Virginia Organizing has been fighting to protect and strengthen Social Security. We believe Social Security is an important program that is paid for by the people and should be protected for those people who have invested so much for so many years.

We have been fighting against corporate interests and the super wealthy who would rather see this important program cut than pay even a small increase in taxes. Closing corporate tax loopholes, increasing the Social Security tax, and raising or ending the cap on wages taxed for Social Security would help resolve concerns about the program and stabilize it for the future.

We have been fighting against elected officials who do not understand what it is like to live solely on Social Security to survive. Connie Jones, a resident of Virginia Beach, knows how to live on Social Security. She lives in the most affordable apartment in the area and is frugal with her limited resources. If Social Security benefits were reduced for her, she would not be able to pay her bills. What will happen to people like Connie so that politicians can keep wealthy special interests happy?

We cannot allow Social Security to fail, and the solution is not forcing those who have the least to sacrifice the most in order to fix any problems with the program. We have to do better for those who rely on this program for survival. We have to do better for future generations.

We ask that you oppose any measures to change the Social Security cost of living adjustments to the "chained-CPI" method of calculation instead of inflation. The cuts to Social Security payments that this method would provide may seem small at 3.5 percent, but, as you know, 3.5 percent means more to someone living on a limited income than it does to the wealthiest individuals and corporations in our nation.

Please do not sacrifice the financial security of our seniors to protect the interests of the wealthy and big corporations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra A. Cook".

Sandra A. Cook
Chairperson