Dear President Obama:

We want to thank you for standing strong in the American Taxpayer Relief Act to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from benefit cuts that would jeopardize the well-being of millions of Americans.

We write to affirm our vigorous opposition to cutting Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits in any final bill to replace sequestration. Earned Social Security and Medicare benefits provide the financial and health protections necessary to keep individuals and families out of poverty. Medicaid is not only a lifeline for low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and families, it is the primary source of long-term care services and supports for 3.6 million individuals. We cannot overstate their importance for our constituents and our country.

That is why we remain deeply opposed to proposals to reduce Social Security benefits through use of the chained CPI to calculate cost-of-living adjustments. We remain committed to making the changes that will extend solvency for 75 years, but Social Security has not contributed to our current fiscal problems and it should not be on the bargaining table.

Similarly, we oppose proposals to increase Medicare cost-sharing requirements or to raise the age of eligibility. Half of all Medicare recipients live on less than $22,000 a year – yet they spend, on average, three times as much of these limited incomes on health care as other Americans. Raising their already heavy cost-sharing burden or increasing the age of eligibility doesn’t lower health care costs, it just shifts them to those who can least afford more financial burdens – seniors, people with disabilities and their families.

A commitment to keeping the middle-class strong and reducing poverty requires a commitment to keeping Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid strong. We urge you to reject any proposals to cut benefits, and we look forward to working with you to enact approaches that instead rely on economic growth and more fair revenue-raising policies to solve our fiscal problems.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rep. Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Rep. Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress
Karen Bass
Karen Bass
Member of Congress
Robert Brady
Robert Brady
Member of Congress
Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress
Cheri Bustos
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
Lois Capps
Lois Capps
Member of Congress
Matt Cartwright
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress
Judy Chu
Judy Chu
Member of Congress
Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress
Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress
Bruce Braley
Bruce Braley
Member of Congress
Julia Brownley
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress
G.K. Butterfield
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress
Tony Cardenas
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress
Donna Christensen
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress
David Cicilline
David Cicilline
Member of Congress
Yvette Clarke
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress

Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

Richard Nolan  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

cc: Speaker John Boehner  
House Minority Leader Pelosi  
Senate Majority Leader Reid  
Senate Minority Leader McConnell