



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**AUGUST RECESS ACTION ALERT:
EFFORTS TO PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTINUE!**

The Issue: The President and others are still aggressively promoting a major overhaul of Social Security. Press articles suggesting that some new bills will not cut guaranteed benefits are misleading. These bills try to hide the creation of private accounts. They jeopardize the long-term financial future of Social Security and will increase the federal deficit. We are very concerned that Congress may skip committee discussions where public hearings are usually held on important issues and proceed directly to the House and Senate floors. This creates an opportunity to add private accounts during the final legislative negotiations.

Pending Bills: Republican bills in both the Senate and House would direct Social Security's current annual surpluses to fund private accounts. The Senate sponsor admits that his bill would do nothing to restore the program's financial future and the House sponsor says his bill would increase the federal deficit. These bills are very dangerous because they can serve as "the first step" for more extensive private accounts in future legislation.

What You Can Do: We need your help to oppose privatization. We must educate Members of Congress and the public about why Social Security must continue to provide guaranteed benefits for eligible people with disabilities and their family members. During the August Congressional recess, please contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to oppose private accounts, regardless of how they are funded. **The recess begins Monday, August 1 and runs through Tuesday, September 6.** The August recess is a critical time to oppose privatization so please consider the following ways that you can help.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- **FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Call your Senators and Representatives at their District offices on Monday, August 1 to urge defeat of private account legislation.** The National Social Security call-in day, sponsored by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare [NCPSSM], was selected because it is the first day of the Congressional recess and the day many recipients receive monthly checks. Call NCPSSM toll free at 1-800-966-1935 to request telephone numbers for your Senate and House district offices. When you call your Senator and Representatives, urge them to oppose private accounts in Social Security.
- **Send personal stories** about how you or members of your family benefited from Social Security benefits. Please use the personal story form posted at www.c-c-d.org, click on Social Security Task Force.
- **Call your Representative and Senators** to ask where they are sponsoring local Town Hall meetings. Next week we will circulate information about scheduled events and will update you as others are planned. Please try to attend and speak during the "open mike" session about why it is essential to oppose private accounts. See our recommended Talking Points.

CONNECT WITH NEW COALITION PARTNERS

On the national level, CCD is joining forces with other groups that oppose privatizing Social Security. Our new partners include AARP, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights [LCCR] and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare [NCPSSM]. We can maximize our strength by working with their local chapters and volunteers.

- **Attend events** sponsored by other groups to oppose privatization. There are a number of events during the recess, especially in the week before Social Security's 70th Birthday on August 14. We will distribute information about events organized to oppose private accounts so please watch your e-mail.
- **Work with our new partners** through their state or local offices and volunteers. These groups are eager to work with CCD members. You may consider attending events they sponsor, going together to speak with Representatives or Senators or their staff in Congressional district offices or educating people about the disability perspective on Social Security benefits. Most people do not know that people with disabilities are found in all parts of the Social Security program, including the retirement program.

HOW TO CONTACT A NEW PARTNER

To work with NCPSSM, please contact the appropriate grassroots manager in the Washington, DC office listed below. These people are ready to help you connect with their local volunteers:

Sue Ward - 202-216-8385 - wards@ncpssm.org
Arizona - Arkansas - IL - KY - LA - NM - TX - OK - PR

John Glaser - 202-216-8458 - glaserj@ncpssm.org
CT - DE - IN - Massachusetts - Maine - NH - NJ - NY - OH - PA - RI - VT

Katie Johnson - 202-216-8344 - johnsonka@ncpssm.org
CA - Colorado - DC - Hawaii - Nevada - OR - Utah - WA

Laura Feldman - 202-216-8349 - feldmanl@ncpssm.org
Alabama - FL - GA - MD - Mississippi - NC - SC - TN - VA

Janet Witt - 202-216-8341 - wittj@ncpssm.org
Alaska - ID - Iowa - KS - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Montana - NE - ND - SD - WI

In a future Alert, we will provide contact information for state AARP offices. The staff want to work with us to educate the public and elected officials about the disability perspective on Social Security.

FUTURE ACTION

In the weeks ahead, we will update you about new developments and provide more materials to use to oppose private accounts. Now is the time for action: we must work together with new partners to protect the future of guaranteed Social Security benefits for all of us, our children and grandchildren!