

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Council of State Governments (CSG)
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Brotherhood of Police Organizations (IBPO)
International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
International Personnel Management Association (IPMA)
International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)
National Association of Government Deferred Compensation Administrators (NAGDCA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)
National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
National Education Association (NEA)
National League of Cities (NLC)
National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact the following members of our organizations:

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Don Nickles
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Nickles:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Gramm:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Lott:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Moynihan:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Rockefeller:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Kent Conrad
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Conrad:

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Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Richard H. Bryan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Bryan:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Graham:

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Grassley:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Hatch:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jim M. Jeffords
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Jeffords:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Murkowski:

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Baucus:

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable John B. Breaux
United States Senate
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It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact the following members of our organizations:

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable J. Robert Kerrey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Kerrey:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Connie Mack
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Mack:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable John H. Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Chafee:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Fred Thompson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Robb:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Amory Houghton
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Houghton:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cardin:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Dave Camp
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Camp:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Wally Herger
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herger:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable J. D. Hayworth
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hayworth:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jennifer Dunn
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jerry Weller
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Weller:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jim McCrery
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCrery:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jim Nussle
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nussle:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jim Ramstad
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ramstad:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable John S. Tanner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tanner:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Mac Collins
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Collins:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Phil English
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative English:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Portman:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable John Lewis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lewis:

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Bill Archer
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shaw:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Kenny C. Hulshof
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hulshof:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doggett:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Philip M. Crane
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crane:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Robert T. Matsui
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Matsui:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Ron Lewis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lewis:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Sam Johnson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Levin:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Scott McInnis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McInnis:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Wes Watkins
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Watkins:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable William M. Thomas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thomas:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

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United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rangel:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable William J. Coyne
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Coyne:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact the following members of our organizations:

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Jim McDermott
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McDermott:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Gerald D. Kleczka
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kleczka:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Neal:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Michael R. McNulty
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McNulty:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable William J. Jefferson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jefferson:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Becerra:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Mark Foley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foley:

On behalf of state and local governments, public employee unions, and millions of public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, the national public organizations listed above are writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose mandatory Social Security coverage on State and local workers. The sharp payroll cost inherent in mandatory Social Security coverage will have a devastating fiscal impact on the numerous State and local governments that do not participate in Social Security spread across virtually every state.

These State and local governments have only two responses available when confronted by such a heavy cost burden coming from the Federal government -- raising taxes or cutting spending on other essential government services. Ironically, these fiscal demands will have an enormous impact on services such as elementary and secondary education and public safety, at a time when political leaders at all levels in this country are looking to improve such services.

It is important to remember that at the time Social Security was established, State and local governments and their workers were barred from participating in the program. State and local governments designed their own retirement plans in reliance on that exclusion, and benefits were structured and funded on that basis.

At the end of the day, all the Federal government would reap from the State and local government turmoil that would be caused by this proposal would be short-term additional cash flow to pay current beneficiaries. In the long-run, however, covering these additional employees would impose additional liabilities on the Social Security system and ultimately would result in increasing the expenditures that must be paid out of the program.

We are a diverse group representing public interests. We strongly urge the Congress and the Administration to look beyond short-term Federal revenue needs and to consider the severe cost and dislocation that would be imposed on taxpayers, State and local governments, their millions of workers, and their retirement systems. We look forward to working with you further on this issue of crucial importance.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact the following members of our organizations:

Ed Jayne, AFSCME, (202) 429-1188
Bill Cunningham, AFT, (202) 393-6301
Jim Brown, CSG, (202) 624-5460
Tim Richardson, FOP, (202) 547-8189
Tom Owens, GFOA, (202) 429-2750
Chris Donnellan, IBPO/NAGE, (703) 519-0300
Barry Kasinitz, IAFF, (202) 737-8484
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Jennifer Balsam, NATaT, (202) 624-3551
Ed Braman, NCPERS, (202) 429-2230
Gerri Madrid, NCSL, (202) 624-8670
Cindie Moore, NCTR, (703) 243-3494
David Bryant, NEA, (202) 822-7345
Frank Shafroth, NLC, (202) 626-3020
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Larry Jones, USCM, (202) 861-6709

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Council of State Governments (CSG)
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Brotherhood of Police Organizations (IBPO)
International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
International Personnel Management Association (IPMA)
International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)
National Association of Government Deferred Compensation Administrators (NAGDCA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)
National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
National Education Association (NEA)
National League of Cities (NLC)
National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

May 12, 1999

The Honorable Karen Thurman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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