

After two years, Social Security beneficiaries received their first Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase to help them deal with increasing consumer prices and health care costs. Seniors received a notice in mid-November detailing the 3.6 percent benefits increase set to begin in January of 2012.

For over seventy-five years, Social Security has represented a bedrock promise made to seniors—that after a lifetime of work, we would all receive a measure of protection in retirement. This promise has been central in helping generations of seniors retire with dignity and calm.

Increases in the Social Security COLA have been a critical component of keeping that promise, and assisting seniors with dealing with rising costs of basic essentials like food and housing. The 2012 COLA will once again give seniors this much needed assistance.

After a lifetime of work and paying into Social Security, recipients have earned their benefits and a right to a healthy retirement. For today's recipients and for generations to come, we therefore have a responsibility to reaffirm our commitment to preserve and strengthen Social Security.

As budget cuts continue to dominate business in Washington, I can assure you that I will continue to stand with you to protect the Social Security benefits you have earned and deserve.

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