

18TH DISTRICT
LISA M. BOSCOLA

SENATE BOX 203018
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3018
PHONE: (717) 787-4236
FAX: (717) 783-1257

MAIN STREET COMMONS
559 MAIN STREET, SUITE 270
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018
PHONE: (610) 868-8667
FAX: (610) 861-2184
TOLL FREE: 1-877-535-1818

DOMINICK A. LOCKWOOD BUSINESS CENTER
600 MAIN STREET, SUITE 112
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
PHONE: (570) 420-2938
FAX: (570) 420-2941

WEST CATASAUQUA PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
2123 NORTH FIRST AVENUE, SUITE A-4
WHITEHALL, PA 18052
PHONE: (610) 266-2117
FAX: (610) 266-2169



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August 25, 2009

Honorable Charles Dent
U.S. House of Representatives
701 W. Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Dear Congressman Dent:

There is no doubt that the current recession has had a dramatic impact on all Americans. The ability to make ends meet has grown more difficult with each passing day. And, it appears that come January 1, 2010, the ability to make ends meet for our seniors who rely on their Social Security checks to pay for their housing, food, prescription drugs and all other necessities of life will become even more difficult and in certain cases life threatening.

As you know, it is expected that due to Social Security's usage of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for calculating the COLA for Social Security, seniors for the first time in over three decades will receive no increase in their Social Security. For most seniors, this will mean an actual decrease in their monthly benefits due to expected increase in the Medicare deductions that most seniors have taken directly from their check. This is unfair due to the fact that health care costs continue to rise and are not used in the calculation of the CPI.

It is my hope that you will work with your fellow members of Congress to enact a solution that will allow for Social Security recipients to see an increase in their benefits, either through a percentage increase or one time payment, to allow them to pay for the necessities of life. If not, more seniors will have to make the difficult decisions of whether to pay for food or their prescription drugs. In fact, due to the increase in health care costs, too many seniors are already facing that dilemma. Congress needs to find solutions so that no senior is faced with those life threatening choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns that are shared by seniors throughout the Lehigh Valley and Pocono Mountain Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Boscola".

Lisa M. Boscola
State Senator - 18th District