



A PLAN TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT OUR SENIORS

Upholding our promises to ensure seniors lead fulfilling lives

Among my top priorities in Congress is to provide for and support our nation's seniors. As inflation reaches its highest point in four decades, our seniors are struggling to keep up with a higher cost of living. In Congress, I am committed to protecting and preserving vital programs such as Medicare and Social Security, while simultaneously working to ease the financial burdens on older Americans. Seniors paid into Medicare and Social Security their entire lives with the expectation these programs would be there for them in their golden years. I will always oppose harmful cuts to these programs as I fight to strengthen them for future generations.

This issue will always be personal for me. I saw first-hand how important Medicare and Social Security were for my parents when they were older and sick. These programs provide reliable income and access to care for millions of older Americans, giving many seniors needed peace of mind. Even with these programs in place, every day I hear from countless older Americans who are struggling—this is completely unacceptable. I am committed to making sure that the most vulnerable among us have the same access my parents had to these vitally important resources.

My priorities for seniors include increasing access to care and lowering costs for important health care programs. I am also focused on strengthening Medicare and Social Security, while preserving senior retirement benefits. I am also leading the charge in Congress to enhance the rights and protections senior citizens have in nursing and long-term care facilities. I will always support our nation's senior citizens and urge you to read more about my efforts below!

Enhancing Protections and Support for Seniors

- **Introduced H.R. 3733, the Essential Caregivers Act:** This bipartisan legislation requires facilities like nursing homes and intermediate care sites to guarantee essential caregivers have access to seniors and those with disabilities during public health emergencies. This new federal standard will prevent seniors and those with disabilities from the indignity of being cut off from their caregivers and family, as many were throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill maintains strict safety protocols.
- **Introduced H.Res. 1064 Establishing the Select Committee on Older Americans:** This legislation will create a committee to investigate the unique economic, health, housing, and social issues facing older Americans and promote commonsense solutions. Specifically, the resolution creates a temporary, bipartisan Select Committee on Older Americans made up of six members from each party to serve as a forum for inquiry into the unique challenges facing older Americans. Ultimately, the committee will issue a final report no later than two years after the appointment of its members, with

recommended actions for Congress to take to strengthen and improve the tools, resources, and support services available to seniors.

Expanding and Improving Affordable Access to Health Care

- **Cosponsored H.R. 6144, the Removing Waste and Protecting Medicare Act:** This legislation prevents harmful Medicare cuts from going into effect, cuts federal waste and reinvests in Medicare. We should never play political games with Medicare, which is so vitally important to seniors and retirees across upstate New York.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 5981, the Telehealth Expansion Act:** This bipartisan legislation will permanently require telehealth coverage in high deductible health plans. The expansion of telehealth care options will increase access and lower costs for our nation's seniors, especially those who are mobility impaired or who reside in rural communities.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 2168, the Expanded Telehealth Access Act:** This bipartisan legislation will expand coverage for telehealth visits under Medicare, so seniors never miss critical appointments. While telehealth may not be appropriate in every circumstance, expanding access offers greater options to seniors.

Protecting Social Security and Medicare

- **Cosponsored H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act:** This bipartisan bill will eliminate the reduction of Social Security benefits for those receiving pensions from state or local governments. Those who served in vitally important careers like law enforcement and other public service jobs should not be penalized financially in retirement.
- **Cosponsored H.R. 6590, the Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act:** This legislation repeals the inclusion of Social Security and railroad retirement benefits in taxable gross income, ensuring seniors do not pay taxes on these benefits. After paying into Social Security the entirety of their professional lives, the federal government should not then impose this double taxation on seniors with low and fixed incomes in retirement.
- **Cosigned a letter to the Social Security Administration urging the reopening of over 1,500 SSA field offices:** The pandemic related closure of these offices reduced services to Americans and contributed to a backlog of cases. Many constituents from vulnerable populations, especially those who lack access to reliable internet, have been hit hardest. This is unacceptable and it is imperative these offices resume full hours immediately.

Your views are very important to me. I hope you will take the time to review this plan and let me know what you think. If you would like to contact me, you can write to me on my website at tenney.house.gov or call my office at 202-225-3665 with feedback, questions, or concerns.