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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 13, 2010

Ms. Ellen Bruce  
Eastern Massachusetts OWL Chapter  
86 Westbourne Terrace  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

Dear Ms. Bruce,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the current and future state of our country's Social Security program. As always, I appreciate the input of my constituents and would like to take this time to respond.

Like you, I recognize the importance of Social Security to many Americans and their dependence on receiving a stable source of benefits. Please know that I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner with my Senate colleagues to address the issues facing Social Security and its beneficiaries. We must work together to find solutions that ensure seniors receive needed benefits and have access to affordable health care, prescription drugs, and other basic necessities without compromising the future fiscal health of our nation.

As you may know, each year, the Social Security program provides monthly benefits to 47 million retirees and their families. Currently, 66% of senior citizens depend on this program for their primary source of income. In the coming years, as we begin to address our nation's long-term fiscal concerns, Congress and the Administration will have to take a hard look at federal spending, tax policy, and our entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare. As you may know, earlier this year, President Obama created the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which is informally recognized as the "debt commission." This commission is charged with devising recommendations to improve the long-term fiscal outlook of our nation, including how to balance the federal budget and address the growth in entitlement spending. Although I am not a member of this commission, I will be sure to monitor the actions and recommendations of this group as they work to develop proposals on how to lower our nation's record debt levels while also maintaining important federal programs.

Additionally, some have mentioned concerns for the future fiscal solvency of Social Security and how it relates to provisions like the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Governmental Pension Offset (GPO), which many argue curtail the value of annual benefits. I believe that we must work to find a fiscally responsible solution that balances the need to protect benefits of our current Social Security beneficiaries, while also considering the impact on future generations.

I understand your concern for this issue. As a husband and a father, I recognize the importance of putting money aside and support programs that help a family plan for a secure future. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind should the Senate consider legislation that would amend the Social Security Act of 1935 or impact this program in any other capacity.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. If you should have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit my website at [www.scottbrown.senate.gov](http://www.scottbrown.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown  
United States Senator