

# ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

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## Retiree Leader: Fiscal Commission Seeks to Balance Budget on Backs of Workers and Retirees

### *Social Security, Medicare Cuts Would Hurt Current and Future Retirees*

*The following statement was issued today by Edward F. Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, in response to proposals formally unveiled today by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.*

“The Commission’s recommendations turn a blind eye toward tax cuts for millionaires, and instead choose to callously make workers and retirees pay the price for our nation’s badly-flawed tax and spending policies. Moreover, by so aggressively targeting Social Security, the Commission is going after one of America’s greatest success stories, one that has not contributed a single penny to our budget deficit.

“Increasing the Social Security retirement age to 69 and reducing monthly benefits would be devastating for current and future retirees. Today’s workers would have to stay on the job longer, only to receive lower benefits when they retire. This would cause far more pain for blue collar and service sector workers on Main Street than it would for speculators on Wall Street.

“The Commission’s proposed cuts to Medicare, including long-term care, would further hurt retirees who will enter their retirement years later and in worse economic and physical health.

“Retirees know that it is not what you say, it is what you do. Since Commission members of all ideologies today acknowledged that Social Security does not add to the deficit, why are these callous, draconian cuts the centerpiece of the Commission’s recommendations?

“Our nation’s retirees want to lower the deficit. They do not want a large debt to be the legacy they leave behind to their children and grandchildren. But there is a right way and a wrong way to do this. The Alliance for Retired Americans urges the Commission to reject these recommendations when they vote on Friday.”

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