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Dear Senator:

On March 19th, AARP is launching **“You’ve Earned A Say”**, a national conversation on the future of Social Security and Medicare with our members and all Americans. The goal of this effort is to ensure that Americans have a say in any debate about these programs.

As you know, in the last couple of years, Washington has been focused on addressing the federal budget deficit. During the debate, legislative proposals to change Social Security and Medicare have been under serious consideration. Our members believe these conversations have taken place without considering the impact on real people who depend on these programs for their health and retirement security. Therefore, AARP’s national conversation will provide people who have a vital interest in Medicare and Social Security with an opportunity to voice their views and opinions about two of the most important programs for the health and financial security for older Americans.

Throughout the year we will be working to ensure that our members and the public have their say through local town hall meetings, debates, forums, surveys, our website and AARP publications. We will provide clear and balanced information about the Medicare and Social Security programs and also about the proposals that are being debated -- the pros and cons - - so Americans can make up their own minds on what any changes could mean for themselves and their families.

All Americans, including elected officials and their staffs, are welcome to come to these events to hear what people are saying about the future of Social Security and Medicare and what changes to these programs would mean to them and their families.

Enclosed you will find my recent column about **“You’ve Earned A Say”** in the March edition of AARP’s *Bulletin*. If you would like to learn more about **“You’ve Earned A Say”**, please visit www.aarp.org/earnedasay or contact Joyce Rogers, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at 202-434-3750.

Sincerely,

A. Barry Rand

Enclosure