



Wider Opportunities for Women

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Wider Opportunities for Women Opposes Balancing Budget by Cutting Social Security

WASHINGTON, DC – “Wider Opportunities for Women stands opposed to the proposed debt-reduction commission,” said Joan Kuriansky, Executive Director of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW). “The establishment and process envisioned under the Commission may well weaken Social Security through targeted cuts to this critical program and to other social programs that provide the bedrock of economic security for women, families, and elders, particularly those who are teetering on the brink of or already living in poverty.”

Today, Sen. Conrad (D-ND) and Sen. Gregg (R-NH) will propose to Congress an amendment to debt limit legislation that would establish a commission with jurisdiction over all federal spending and taxation—stifling the democratic process by creating a package of recommendations for Congress to accept or reject, without opportunity for amendments.

“We urge Congress and the Administration to address these budget concerns through a transparent and inclusive process,” said Ms. Kuriansky. “A balanced budget should not be achieved by cutting Social Security and other federal programs that help millions of low-income and vulnerable Americans reach economic security.”

According to WOW’s Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index), a geographically-based measure of how much income is required for elders to meet their basic needs, Social Security is the foundation of economic security for our nation’s elders. Three out of ten elders rely on Social Security for more than 90% of their income, and two out of five women rely on Social Security alone. Social Security is often the only hope for financial security for many disabled persons, children, and families.

At a time when so many Americans are struggling to make ends meet, Social Security should not be put on the chopping block. “Solving our budget crisis by cutting Social Security would lead to another crisis when millions of Americans of all ages will have to choose among food, housing or health care,” said Kuriansky.

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Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) works nationally and in its home community of Washington DC to achieve economic independence and equality of opportunity for women and their families at all stages of life. For over 45 years, WOW has been a leader in the areas of nontraditional employment, job training and education, welfare to work and workforce development policy. Since 1995, WOW has been committed to the self-sufficiency of women and their families through the national Family Economic Self-Sufficiency (FESS) Project. Through FESS, WOW reframed the national debate on social policies and programs from one that focuses on poverty to one that focuses on what families need to make ends meet. Building on FESS, WOW expanded to meet its intergenerational mission of economic independence for women and families at all stages of life with the National Elder Economic Security Initiative.