



ProtectSeniors.Org

For Immediate Release:

Media Contact: Katie Linek
212-685-4600 ext. 104
KLinek@butlerassociates.com

Retirees Applaud President's Comments on Protecting Earned Benefits In State of the Union Address

February 27, 2013 --Washington, DC – In this year's State of the Union Address, President Obama declared that trying to solve our nation's debt crisis by simply cutting Medicare and Social Security was not the answer.

The President declared, "The biggest driver of our long-term debt is the rising cost of health care for an aging population... But we can't ask senior citizens and working families to shoulder the entire burden of deficit reduction while asking nothing more from the wealthiest and most powerful."

"Most Americans – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – understand that we can't just cut our way to prosperity," continued the President in his State of the Union Address. "They know that broad-based economic growth requires a balanced approach to deficit reduction, with spending cuts and revenue, and with everybody doing their fair share. And that's the approach I offer tonight."

"We urge the President to act on behalf of our nation's older citizens. The time for talking is over. Retirees need to see action," stated C. William Jones, Chairman of ProtectSeniors.Org, a retiree advocacy organization fighting for earned health benefit protections of 14.3 million retirees.

In fact, ," stated America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), a national health insurance industry trade association, shows that it's more expensive for Americans age 50 to 64 to obtain health insurance than those under the age of 50, with average premiums for an individual in their early 60s costing nearly twice the average for all non-elderly people (<http://tinyurl.com/be4zk6z>).

ProtectSeniors.Org is working toward the passage of the Earned Retiree Healthcare Benefits Protection Act, which would make it illegal for a corporation to take away the health benefits of their retirees, which were earned in lieu of salary or hourly wages, and vacation time.

"We hope the President will stand behind his words and push forward an agenda that prioritizes needs of America's seniors and the Earned Retiree Healthcare Benefits Protection Act," stated John Brennan, who is Chairman of the 128,000 member Association of BellTel Retirees (www.belltelretirees.org), representing Verizon retirees.

ProtectSeniors.Org is calling on the President and leaders from both parties in Congress to protect earned retiree benefits as they make decisions on spending and deficit reduction measures.

“We applaud those comments, Mr. President, and stand ready to work with you and Congress to pass meaningful legislation that protects earned retiree benefits and defends tax-payers from having to bear the cost of additional bailouts to Corporate America,” added Mr. Brennan.

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