Petition to the White House

Submitted on Behalf of the Children of Tomorrow

Represented by Christopher Riley

April 15, 2013

Contents

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Overview

On behalf of all of the Children of Tomorrow born into the United States starting in 2013, represented by Christopher Riley and his new daughter born in January, 2013, we are petitioning the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, and the President of the United States to immediately acknowledge the fiscal crisis related to our entitlement programs' trust fund accounts.

As has been known for many years, the Social Security and Medicare trust funds will exhaust in the future if changes are not made to all of the programs. The Trustees of all of the trust funds for Social Security and Medicare Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D have made it clear in their reports that these programs are in serious jeopardy of severely affecting the future citizens of the United States of America.

This petition will quote the trustees of the various trust funds relating to the severe crisis facing future Americans relating to the entitlement program trust funds.

The following quotes are taken from the 2012 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, with the following as Trustees:

- Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury, and Managing Trustee of the Trust Funds
- Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Trustee
- Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor, and Trustee
- Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, and Trustee
- Charles P. Blahous III, Public Trustee
- Robert D. Reischauer, Public Trustee
- Marilyn B. Tavenner, Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and Secretary, Boards of Trustees

Medicare Trustees Reports

In the introduction of the Medicare Trustees Report, it outlines the various parts of Medicare and how the system works.

I. INTRODUCTION – Page 1

> ***"The Medicare program has two components. Hospital Insurance (HI), otherwise known as Medicare Part A, helps pay for hospital, home health, skilled nursing facility, and hospice care for the aged and disabled. Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI)***

consists of Medicare Part B and Part D. Part B helps pay for physician, outpatient hospital, home health, and other services for the aged and disabled who have voluntarily enrolled. Part D provides subsidized access to drug insurance coverage on a voluntary basis for all beneficiaries and premium and cost-sharing subsidies for low-income enrollees. Medicare also has a Part C, which serves as an alternative to traditional Part A and Part B coverage. Under this option, beneficiaries can choose to enroll in and receive care from private "Medicare Advantage" and certain other health insurance plans that contract with Medicare. These plans receive prospective, capitated payments for such beneficiaries from the HI and SMI Part B trust fund accounts."

II. OVERVIEW – Page 2

"Under a literal interpretation of current law, payments would be reduced to levels that could be paid from incoming tax and premium revenues when the HI trust fund was depleted. If the projections reflected such payment reductions, then any imbalances between payments and revenues would be automatically eliminated, and the report would not serve its essential purpose, which is to inform policy makers and the public about the size of any trust fund deficits that would need to be resolved to avert program insolvency."

This last quote is troubling because it is outlining a day in the future when trust funds become depleted and the beneficiaries that would be counting on full benefits would only receive benefits equal to whatever payments were made through payroll taxes and other revenues designated to fund the trust fund accounts. In this instance, future citizens would not receive full benefits after paying in full payments. They would not be able to take advantage of these entitlement programs if current policies are not changed. This is not only unfair to future citizens, but unethical, especially for those that did not create this imbalance yet will be paying for the mistakes currently being made in not remedying the problem. Therefore, the problem is no longer in the inherent malfunctioning of the program but in those overseeing the program and continuing to ignore the crisis, and warnings from those alerting Congress to the crisis.

Hospital Insurance Trust Fund

II. OVERVIEW

A. Highlights

Short-Range Results – Page 6

"The estimated exhaustion date for the HI trust fund remains at 2024, the same year shown in last year's report. As in past years, the Trustees have determined that the fund is not adequately financed over the next 10 years."

This statement alone is so troubling that the remaining components of this petition should not even need to be expressed to alert Congress and our President that major reforms are immediately needed. For any politician to make any statements that they will not adjust or reform Medicare and Social

Security with the knowledge of these trustee reports is bordering on behavior that triggers regulators in the private sector to seek criminal indictments.

Page 6 goes on to make even more concerning statements that these issues have existed for many years and changes have not resolved the problem.

> ***"HI expenditures have exceeded income annually since 2008, and projected amounts continue doing so through the short-range period until the fund becomes exhausted in 2024. In 2011, $27.7 billion in trust fund assets were redeemed to cover the shortfall of income relative to expenditures, and $12.0 billion in interest payments were made from the general fund of the Treasury to the HI trust fund. The assets were $244.2 billion at the beginning of 2012, representing about 90 percent of expenditures during the year, which is below the Trustees' minimum recommended level of 100 percent. The HI trust fund has not met the Trustees' formal test of short-range financial adequacy since 2003."***

The final statement in the Short-Range Results section on Page 7 again points out that the President of the United States is obligated to "submit to Congress proposed legislation to respond to the [Medicare funding] warning within 15 days after the date of the Budget submission for the succeeding year. There is not a question whether the warning was issued as it is clearly spelled out in the Trustee Report below. The question is whether the President submitted proposed legislation addressing the warning. And if he did, why do we continue to see these warnings and the trillions of dollars that the trust funds are short continue to rise?"

> ***"The difference between Medicare's total outlays and its 'dedicated financing sources' reaches an estimated 45 percent of outlays in fiscal year 2012, the first year of the projection. Based on this result, Federal law requires the Trustees to issue a determination of projected 'excess general revenue Medicare funding' in this report. This is the seventh consecutive such finding, and it again triggers a statutory 'Medicare funding warning' that Federal general revenues are becoming a substantial share of total financing for Medicare. The law directs the President to submit to Congress proposed legislation to respond to the warning within 15 days after the date of the Budget submission for the succeeding year."***

II. OVERVIEW

Conclusion – Page 8

The conclusion to the overview section brings to light the dramatic affect that Medicare alone will have on our "nation's workers, the economy, Medicare beneficiaries, and the federal budget." The targeted percentage of GDP that President Obama is attempting to bring our Medicare expenditures to in 2013 based on his most recent budget is $3.2%. The trustees below have warned that unless change and reform occur in Medicare that these expenditures would represent 10.4 percent of GDP at the end of the current 75 year analysis period. This represents triple the percentage that the President himself is attempting to accomplish and yet another concrete example why reform is absolutely necessary in Medicare.

> ***"Total Medicare expenditures were $549 billion in 2011. The Board projects that, under current law, expenditures will increase in future years at a somewhat faster pace than either aggregate workers' earnings or the economy overall and that, as a percentage of GDP, they will increase from 3.7 percent in 2011 to 6.7 percent by 2086…then Medicare spending would instead represent roughly 10.4 percent of GDP in 2086. Growth of this magnitude, if realized, would substantially increase the strain on the nation's workers, the economy, Medicare beneficiaries, and the federal budget."***

If the above evidence from the Trustee Report is not enough to move Congress and the President to take immediate action to begin remedying this impending tidal wave headed towards America's fiscal shores, the below statement from the conclusion section should be clear enough for regulators and American voters to use as justification that fiscal and fiduciary governance has crossed the line regarding the Medicare system and the handling of the trust funds:

> ***"The Trustees project that HI tax income and other dedicated revenues will fall short of HI expenditures in all future years under current law. The HI trust fund does not meet either the Trustees' test of short-range test of financial adequacy or their test of long-range close actuarial balance."***

II. OVERVIEW

E. Financial Status of the HI Trust Fund

1. 10-Year Actuarial Estimates (2012-2021) – Page 28

The actual financial analysis of the Trustee Report outlines all of the assumptions and details for their conclusions mentioned above. In the following paragraph, troubling realities are pointed out if no actions are taken to avert this fiscal crisis. Most notably the statement, "these revenues would be inadequate to fully cover costs. Beneficiary access to health care services would rapidly be curtailed."

The fact that this statement exists in a very prominent government document that was addressed to Speaker Boehner and Vice President Biden putting future citizens in jeopardy of having their "health care services curtailed" is a disgrace to the Children of Tomorrow of which this statement is in essence referring to. The Children of Tomorrow take great offense to the President and Congress' refusal to acknowledge these warnings and continue to place Medicare on a path where the Children of Tomorrow will have their access to health care services rapidly curtailed due to a lack of fiduciary responsibility by politicians who continually make public campaign promises that Medicare is not to be adjusted.

> ***"Under the intermediate assumptions, the assets of the HI trust fund would continue decreasing as a percentage of annual expenditures from the beginning of 2012 through the short-range projection period and would be exhausted in 2024, as illustrated in figure II.E1. (Under the illustrative alternative projections to current law, HI trust fund depletion would take place somewhat earlier in 2024). If assets were***

> ***exhausted, Medicare could pay health plans and providers only to the extent allowed by ongoing tax revenues—and these revenues would be inadequate to fully cover costs. Beneficiary access to health care services would rapidly be curtailed."***

This section continues on Page 29 to discuss the even more troubling actuarial results should the medical costs continue to rise as they have in recent years. Should the "intermediate" projections be low and the "high-cost" projections are more in line with actual medical costs, Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund hits its collision course with exhaustion much earlier.

> ***"Under the high-cost assumptions, however, asset depletion would occur in 2017."***

By the time 2017 arrives, President Obama will no longer be President of the United States and millions of senior American citizens could be without proper medical care because of the refusal of executives and Congress to address this serious issue. On that day in 2017, what will President Obama and the members of Congress have to say as to why American citizens are without proper medical care? We, unfortunately, will probably listen to their finger-pointing and pass-the-buck explanations as the current Congress and President have yet to address this multiple trillion-dollar issue facing this country. Instead, they are arguing over how the country will be able to handle the $85 billion in cuts that the sequestering and Fiscal Cliff issues have created.

As will be shown later on in this petition, the $85 billion that is creating such a ruckus in this country for how unfair these cuts are to citizens of the United States represents two tenths of one percent (.2%) of the total present value of the shortage in the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds, $38.6 Trillion. Putting this number in perspective, if the $85 Billion in cuts were representative of the average amount of credit card debt held by households that have credit cards in the United States, $15,956, the $38.6 Trillion that the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds are short of providing full benefits to Americans into the future would represent credit card debt of over $7 million dollars at $7,245,901 for those same credit card holders.

Each American with credit card debt would have to find a way to pay off $7 million to resolve their debt issue…that is what America has in its $38.6 Trillion in entitlement debt – the Children of Tomorrow need immediate action so that they are not further affected by current inaction.

III. ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS

B. HI Financial Status

3. Long-Range Estimates – Page 75

We will now begin to recap the staggering shortages in the Medicare Trust Funds and bring them to current-day dollars. When looking at the cumulative number of all the Trust Fund shortages, which we will do towards the end of this petition, the absolute sense of urgency is clear to make immediate changes. Anyone that would argue to the contrary should attract the attention of regulators who have traditionally indicted executives who have ignore such severe warnings on public retirement funds that caused billions of dollars of damage and forced innocent victims to reduce or eliminate their estimated benefits.

In this case, the present value that these funds are short totals $38.6 Trillion, which is such an unbelievable number to comprehend based on the fact that when you add this to our public debt in this country that is published and not kept "off the book" it more than triples our national debt. How this fact in and of itself has not instigated investigations is something our justice department, or a brave politician, needs to look into.

We will start with the Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A) Trust Fund on Page 75 to outline how much we would have to replenish in this fund so that the hospital care for seniors through Medicare does not collapse in the near future.

> ***The present value of future expenditures less future tax income, decreased by the amount of HI trust fund assets on hand at the beginning of the projection, amounts to $5.3 trillion. This value is referred to as the 75-year "unfunded obligation" for the HI trust fund, and it is significantly higher than last year's value of $3.0 trillion. The primary reason for this increase is the faster assumed growth in the volume and intensity of HI services per beneficiary, based on the recommendations of the 2010-2011 Medicare Technical Review Panel.***

The sad reality that we will soon come to realize about all of these trust funds being underfunded is that not only are the fundamentals of the program insolvent based on the volume of expenditures projected to exceed revenues in all future years, but also the current reserve funds that are supposed to be in the trust funds to make up annual shortages have been taken by the treasury department to fund other parts of the government and thus there are no funds at all in the accounts. In order to fund annual shortages, the United States needs to borrow more money by selling Treasury Notes and Treasury Bills. The total of these "Interdepartmental IOUs" as the government calls them is approximately another five trillion dollars that we can add to our already excessive public and private debt. The situation continues to get worse the more and more information we discover about just how much the government has not told the citizens of this country about the severe fiscal crisis we are in.

The questions at this point begin to surface as to why Congress has not done something about this if they knew this crisis was coming. Unfortunately, there are no good answers to this question to date. The excuse that they didn't actually know this was such a big issue, or they did not understand the severity of the trillions of dollars of shortage is also not a valid defense. As can be seen on Page 77, the Trustees have made it very clear year after year what the damages are and what the "sizable financial responsibility facing the American public" is and will be for the Children of Tomorrow:

> ***The estimated unfunded obligation of $5.3 trillion and the closely associated present value of the actuarial deficit ($5.5 trillion) are useful indicators of the sizable financial responsibility facing the American public. In other words, increases in revenues and/or reductions in benefit expenditures—equivalent to a lump-sum amount today of more than $5 trillion—would be necessary to bring the HI trust fund into long-range financial balance.***

To make the situation even worse, the report states that if we actually use the alternative projections based on higher medical costs, which many experts are claiming is the more accurate projection, the $5.3 trillion present value turns into $9.7 trillion. I think the message is coming clearer just how scary this situation is when a shift in a projection can cause this country an additional $4.4 trillion dollars – that is almost two years of total tax revenues from all sources that this country collects, based on a projection being adjusted.

> ***"Based on the illustrative alternative projections, the HI unfunded obligation is $9.7 trillion,"***

Part B Supplementary Medical Insurance Program

III. ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS

C. Part B Financial Status

3. Long-Range Estimates – Page 113

The Supplemental Medical Insurance portion of Medicare, referred to as Part B, deals with the medical insurance offered to seniors through the Medicare system. Participants pay a premium, just as in a regular health insurance program, and instead of an insurance company paying the doctor costs, the Medicare Part B Trust Fund pays the bills. The issue here is that only 26 percent of the bills are paid by premiums from the senior participants, 73% of the costs will be absorbed by the general fund of the United States where all other governmental expenditures are paid from.

This all sounds like a workable model until you arrive at page 113 of the Trustee Report and read that the total estimated expenditures for the program are $32.3 trillion into the future and only $8.5 trillion will be covered by beneficiary premiums, which leaves another $23.7 trillion that US taxpayers will have to cover. Yes, that was $23.7 trillion or another 250% of our current public and private debt.

> ***"Table III.C11 shows an estimated present value of Part B expenditures through the infinite horizon of $32.3 trillion, of which $20.2 trillion would occur during the first 75 years"***

Part D Prescription Drug Program

III. ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS

D. Part D Financial Status

3. Long-Range Estimates – Page 129

Part D of Medicare deals with the prescription drug program. This program is also severely under water and will need a substantial cash infusion over the years if major reforms are not implemented rapidly. As can be seen from the quote from the Trustees Report, expenditures are estimated at $19.2 trillion over the life of this program, $9.1 trillion in the next 75 years. Since 75% of these expenditures are to come from the general fund of the United States, and presently there are no dollars in the Part D Trust Fund to cover the shortage, our annual budgets will have to come up with another $14.3 trillion over the life of the program, called the "infinite horizon" and $6.8 trillion over the next 75 years. If you are keeping track of all of these shortages, you are starting to realize why the necessity for Congress and our

President to quit ignoring their own Trustees' warnings and level with the American people that we have a serious crisis on our hands.

> ***"Part D expenditures through the infinite horizon of $19.2 trillion, of which $9.1 trillion would occur during the first 75 years. To put the estimates in perspective, they are also shown as percentages"***

Social Security Trustees Report

All of the data up to this point has addressed the Medicare programs only and the quotes have been taken from the 2012 Medicare Trustees Report, officially titled the "2012 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds."

However, there is also a report generated to address the Social Security and Disability Trust Funds, collectively referred to as "Old-Age and Survivors and Disability Insurance" (OASDI). The report is officially titled, "The 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds." In essence, the trustees are the same as the Medicare Trustees, except the Deputy Commissioner of Social Security is Carolyn W. Colvin and she is also a trustee.

We will address the shortage as one number, even though there are two trust funds. The Disability Trust Fund is set to exhaust in 2016 according to the quote from the report noted below. However, have no fear those of you collecting disability insurance from this fund, our government has a loophole whereby they can take monies from the Social Security Trust Fund to cover any shortages. Because of this trap door, politicians are not putting this issue on the list of items needing to be resolved and are saying that Social Security is "fine".

Let us look at what the Trustees and actuarial experts state in the report regarding what the politicians are claiming is "fine".

II. OVERVIEW

A. HIGHLIGHTS

Conclusion – Page 4

The conclusion section outlines the current and future state of Social Security fairly well. In fact, the numbers speak for themselves now that the Medicare situation has been laid out and we are aware of the magnitude of the term "trillions". In the opening paragraph of the Conclusion section it states that not only is Social Security not "fine" into the future but the Trust Fund exhausts in 2033, after the Disability Trust Fund exhausts in 2016 and borrows from the Social Security Fund until they both go down in 2033.

> ***Under the long-range intermediate assumptions, the Trustees project that annual cost for the OASDI program will exceed non-interest income in 2012 and remain higher throughout the remainder of the long-range period. The projected combined OASI and***

> ***DI Trust Fund assets increase through 2020, begin to decline in 2021, and become exhausted and unable to pay scheduled benefits in full on a timely basis in 2033. However, the DI Trust Fund becomes exhausted in 2016, so legislative action is needed as soon as possible. In the absence of a long-term solution, lawmakers could reallocate the payroll tax rate between OASI and DI, as they did in 1994.***

The next paragraph requires some “reading between the lines” so we will help with the interpretation as these reports can get so “technical”. Basically, the Trustees are addressing the common attitude that the politicians have regarding Social Security as being “fine”. Apparently, because there is 20 years between today and when the Trust Funds are set to exhaust, the sense of urgency is not present to adjust Social Security. Coupled with the unpopular political viewpoint of changing promised benefits or taxes to current Americans (voters), the solution for our current day President and Congress is to “pass on to” the future Children of Tomorrow “significantly larger” reductions in benefits and “significantly higher” taxes than if we made the corrections now to “allow more generations to share in the needed revenue increases or reductions in scheduled benefits.” You can now read their own words with a bit more knowledge of what they are trying to say in a nice way that the Children of Tomorrow are in serious trouble:

> ***“For the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds to remain solvent throughout the 75-year projection period, lawmakers could: (1) increase the combined payroll tax rate for the period in a manner equivalent to an immediate and permanent increase of 2.61 percentage points (from its current level of 12.40 percent to 15.01 percent); (2) reduce scheduled benefits for the period in a manner equivalent to an immediate and permanent reduction of 16.2 percent; (3) draw on alternative sources of revenue; or (4) adopt some combination of these approaches. Lawmakers would have to make significantly larger changes for future beneficiaries if they decide to avoid changes for current beneficiaries and those close to retirement age.”***

> ***“The Trustees recommend that lawmakers address the projected trust fund shortfalls in a timely way in order to phase in necessary changes and give workers and beneficiaries time to adjust to them. Implementing changes soon would allow more generations to share in the needed revenue increases or reductions in scheduled benefits.”***

IV. ACTUARIAL ESTIMATES

B. LONG-RANGE ESTIMATES

5. Additional Measures of OASDI Unfunded Obligations – Page 65

In looking at the actual numbers, again we run into multiples of trillions that future Americans will have to address. In the case of Social Security, the number is $20.5 trillion over the life of the program and $8.6 trillion over the next 75 years. Regardless of what number you look at, the closing statement in the quote below from the Trustees is very troubling and requires the attention of our lawmakers immediately.

> ***"Table IV.B6 reports that the OASDI open group unfunded obligation over the infinite horizon is $20.5 trillion, which is $11.9 trillion larger than for the 75-year period. The $11.9 trillion increment reflects a significant financing gap projected for OASDI for years after 2086. Of course, the degree of uncertainty associated with estimates beyond 2086 is substantial. "***
>
> ***"The $20.5 trillion infinite horizon open group unfunded obligation is 3.9 percent of taxable payroll or 1.3 percent of GDP. These relative measures of the unfunded obligation over the infinite horizon express its magnitude in relation to the resources potentially available to finance the shortfall."***

Allow us to reiterate what is really happening here with the Social Security situation. We will break down the quote from the Conclusion section and substitute the appropriate terms to further outline the message that our current lawmakers are sending to future Americans. The statement we will break down is as follows: "**Lawmakers would have to make significantly larger changes for future beneficiaries if they decide to avoid changes for current beneficiaries and those close to retirement age."**

"**Lawmakers**" = Congress and our President
"**would have to make significantly larger changes**" = We will be creating larger tax increases and bigger benefit reductions
"for Future beneficiaries" = The Children of Tomorrow
"if they" = Congress and our President
"decide to avoid changes" = This is critical because they are making a conscious decision not to raise taxes and reduce benefits today in order to push off larger tax increases and benefit reductions into the future because making those tough choices, and do the right thing today, may have political ramifications.
"for current beneficiaries" = Basically, current voters that would not like tax increases and benefit reductions today as opposed to "future beneficiaries" that are too young to vote or stand up for themselves.
"and those close to retirement age." They are not wanting to disrupt what was promised to Americans and thus they are spending money that America does not have to please the current Americans while lawmakers are in office so that in the future, when they are no longer in office, future politicians will have to "make significantly larger changes" to future Americans (Children of Tomorrow) who will have to suffer from the inaction of today's politicians.

The above translation is a situation that lawmakers need to take very seriously. The Children of Tomorrow, through their representative Christopher Riley, will not stop bringing to the surface the reality that they (Children of Tomorrow) are being put in financial jeopardy with the conscious and irresponsible decisions being made today to not address the unfunded tens of trillions of dollars that these Trust Funds are projected to experience in the future.

Conclusion

Returning to the Medicare Trustees Report, we conclude this petition with the daunting summary of all the deficits in the trust funds for both Medicare and Social Security. Before we look at the tragic results from the Medicare Trustees Report, it is very important to note that this petition is written for "We the People" by "We the People" because all of the concerning financial crisis outlined in this petition ONLY affect "We the People." Not a single member of Congress or the President of the United States is affected in the slightest by the reductions in benefits that will be forced upon the Children of Tomorrow.

The $38.6 Trillion Problem

V. APPENDICES

5. **Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds and the Federal Budget**
   Future Obligations of the Trust Funds and the Budget – Page 239

The following daunting conclusion of the total Present Value of all of the shortages in the Trust Funds outlines America's number one fiscal crisis that is threatening the sustainability of not only these entitlement programs, but also the country in general as many of these fiscal issues pour into the general fund.

> ***From the 75-year budget perspective, the present value of the additional resources that would be necessary to meet projected expenditures, at current-law levels for the three programs combined, is $38.6 trillion***
>
> ***"Other than asset redemptions and interest payments, no provision exists under current law to address the projected HI and OASDI financial imbalances. Once assets are exhausted, expenditures cannot be made except to the extent covered by ongoing tax receipts."***

If lawmakers are trying to protect current retirees from having benefits cut, they are doing so at the cost of much more severe cuts for future Americans. The above statement from the Trustees clearly outlines that with no provision existing to solve this issue, once the Trust Funds exhaust, benefits will immediately be cut to match whatever the current workers are paying in. This is as irresponsible as waiting to see how much an 18 year-old has left in his savings account and then deciding how many classes the teenager can take in college before he has to drop out.

To add to the potential collapse, the $38.6 trillion shortage is using intermediate projections. If the higher cost, and potentially more accurate, projections are used then the $38.6 trillion will not even be enough and tens of trillions more will further threaten this country's sustainability.

> ***"As discussed elsewhere in this report, there is a significant likelihood that the projected HI and SMI expenditures are substantially understated as a result of potentially impracticable elements of current law. Although this issue does not affect the nature of the budget and trust fund perspectives described in this appendix, it is important to note that actual long-range present values for HI expenditures and SMI***

expenditures and revenues are likely to exceed the amounts shown in table V.F2 by a substantial margin."

For any member of Congress, or the President of the United States, to argue with "We the People" or tell any of the "Children of Tomorrow" that they do not care, and that they will not adjust these entitlement programs today is not a representative that "We the People" want in office and this petition is asking that the Ethics Committee look into the impeachment of any Congressional members refusing to address these entitlement deficits with real solutions that will keep these programs sustainable into the future.

Should these refusal actions be matched up with the likes of corporate America where retirement funds and other restricted accounts were irresponsibly managed and where indictments were handed out to those in charge, lawmakers would be taking a completely different tact. Right now, lawmakers are faced with the decision to kick the can down the road and remain elected as a Congressional member and maybe take come criticism in future years for not addressing a problem that they were aware of. If their decision changed to being re-elected or going to jail, maybe the Children of Tomorrow would have a chance at effective reforms of our entitlement programs. Thus, we are asking the United States Attorney General to open investigations on members of Congress that exhibit such reform refusal behaviors.

Just as America responded to the Enron Scandal, and just as America responded to the Madoff Ponzi scheme and handed out tens of hundreds of indictments for insider trading, Americans are going to seek accountability and blame when these Trust Funds hit zero and benefits are taken away from millions of Americans. Taxes could skyrocket rapidly to unprecedented levels to try and prevent further collapse and everyone will be looking for the answers as to how our country was allowed to get to such a state.

Before this petition, lawmakers could have pleaded ignorance and claimed that they were "unaware" of the magnitude of the problem as they were not informed of the exact exhaustion dates of the various trust funds. They could claim that they were unaware of the magnitude of the shortages in the trust funds and the multiple trillions of dollars required to keep Medicare and Social Security solvent…the Children of Tomorrow now know that they have been duly informed.

Trust Fund Exhaustion Dates

In order to avoid such excuses in the future, let us make things very clear to all lawmakers, members of Congress, and the entire executive branch of the government, including the President of the United States so that excuses will not be accepted, nor tolerated in the future:

- The Disability Trust Fund in the Social Security program is set to exhaust in 2016
- The Social Security Trust Fund is set to exhaust in 2031
- The Hospital Insurance (Medicare) Trust Fund is set to exhaust in 2024
- The total Present Value of all of the trust funds for both Medicare and Social Security is $38.6 trillion dollars – which more than triples the current national debt. This number is based on

intermediate projections, actual expenditures are **"likely to exceed"** these projections by a **"substantial margin."**

Lawmakers could all claim all of the above excuses and site laws attempting to absolve themselves of the wrongdoing that is taking place…and it is very possible that legally and politically they will get away with it. But what will they really be getting away with? The fact that they successfully "duped" the Children of Tomorrow while creating a smoke and mirrors game to gain re-election? Is that how they want to be known when the Children of Tomorrow are in a fifth grade history class being taught about the irresponsible actions of the 113th Congress to purposely ignore the eminent collapse of our country's entitlement programs?

After reading this entire petition, there is no more excuse for the Democrat to not consider reforming Medicare or Social Security, including reducing benefits. There is no excuse for the Republican to refuse to consider increasing the payroll taxes to help bridge the deficit gap. The truth is that there will need to be *both* increases in the payroll taxes and a reduction of benefits if any reform of the entitlement programs is going to be remotely effective.

The Children of Tomorrow are counting on the courageous Congressional members that will stand up and go against their party constituents to create a compromise and effectively reform our entitlement programs. All others should volunteer to step aside and let the courageous Representatives and Senators solve this complex problem. If Congress and our President refuse to compromise to solve this issue, our country is headed for an entitlement crisis of epic proportions that could substantially affect the sustainability of our country.

Petition Requests

Based on all of the evidence outlined in this petition, the Children of Tomorrow, as represented by Christopher Riley, are requesting that the following actions be taken to avoid this imminent fiscal crisis:

1. All Congressional members, the President and Vice President receive a copy of this petition and return a signed acknowledgement that they received and read this petition.
2. A bill be written with the intent of becoming law that will bring to light the following:
    a. There are severe shortages in the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds, as outlined in both 2012 Trustees Reports, threatening the sustainability of both Medicare and Social Security.
    b. To protect the future citizens of the country, immediate reforms be initiated, as outlined in the Trustees Reports, to the satisfaction of the actuarial experts of both Medicare and Social Security so the 2013 Trustee Reports show "significant" reductions in the Present Value shortages in all trust funds and the exhaustion dates of the individual trust funds be extended "well into the future."
3. That the House Ethics Committee opens an investigation into the actions of Congress and/or the department of Health and Human Services for their lack of fiduciary responsibility and properly addressing this entitlement crisis. As stated on page three of the House Ethics Manual:
    a. "Some standards of conduct derive from criminal law. Violations of these standards may lead to a fine or imprisonment, or both…the Department of Justice may seek restitution."
4. That the American people be informed on the dangers and warnings presented by the Trustees of the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds by Congress creating a sub-committee chaired by a civilian with financial and accounting experience that can report back to the American people the results of the Lawmakers as they continue to address this issue into the future. The Children of Tomorrow do not have confidence that Congress will properly inform the American people of the progress on this issue and require an independent civilian to chair the new sub-committee.
5. That the national debt figures be revised to include the present value of the entitlement program trust funds as they are liabilities of our country that our future Americans, and specifically the Children of Tomorrow, will be forced to pay with increased taxes or reduced benefits.

Official Petition

Official Petition Filed with the White House at: http://wh.gov/tZC1

This petition is filed on behalf of the Children of Tomorrow and asks that Congress immediately pass a bill that will not only acknowledge the severe debt crisis in our entitlement programs of Social Security and Medicare, but also reprimands any members of Congress for intentionally ignoring the official warnings from the Trustees of the Trust Funds as outlined in the official Medicare and Social Security Trustees Reports submitted Annually.

The entire petition document can be accessed at
www.givinglegacy.com/documents/whitehousepetition.pdf

In summary, the "Children of Tomorrow", represented by Christopher Riley, are in jeopardy of inheriting a $38.6 trillion-dollar debt because Congress refuses to resolve this issue. Please sign this petition today and force Congress to act.

As it stands, we will be forced to make serious adjustments to future beneficiaries, and our payroll taxes will be increasing rapidly to cover the current deficits. However, all of these trust funds are on a collision course to fail in the future and all of Washington is aware of this crisis, but is refusing to make the necessary changes for fear of political ramifications and re-election potential.

The facts are as follows:

- The Disability Insurance Trust Fund will deplete to $0 in 2016
- The Social Security Trust Fund will deplete to $0 in 2033
- The Medicare Trust Fund that pays for hospital visits for seniors will deplete to $0 in 2024
- The total entitlement trust fund debt currently stands at $38.6 trillion - which triples our national debt
- All of these facts are outlined in the Trustee Reports and can be accessed at the following web addresses:
    - 2012 Medicare Trustee Report:
        - http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2012.pdf
    - 2012 Social Security Trustee Report:
        - http://www.ssa.gov/oact/tr/2012/tr2012.pdf

On behalf of the Children of Tomorrow, who are without a voice in this entire fiscal crisis debate, please sign this petition and force the White House to address this fiscal crisis once and for all and stop Congress from delaying the inevitable painful decisions that will help put America back on a sustainable path and avoid a collapse of the magnitude that took down countries such as Argentina, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Japan and many more to come in future years if they do not make the tough decisions that America is currently facing.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Christopher Riley
Representative of the Children of Tomorrow