

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2011

Senator Patty Murray
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Jeb Hensarling
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murray and Representative Hensarling,

As Co-Chairs of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, you and your colleagues are tasked with finding at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade. As you deliberate, we urge you to include the Congressional Retirement Age Act (S. 742 & H.R. 2397) in any deficit reduction package. This common-sense policy change will save taxpayer money by preventing Members of Congress from receiving federal pension benefits before reaching the Social Security retirement age.

As you know, Members of Congress are generally eligible to receive full pension benefits at age 62 after five years of federal service. In some instances, a Member of Congress can be eligible to retire with a full pension at age 50. Meanwhile, the earliest that the people we represent can receive full Social Security benefits is age 65 and, for people born after 1959, the full retirement age is 67.

At a time when we are looking for ways to reduce spending and treat all Americans fairly, we believe the Congressional Retirement Age Act of 2011 achieves both goals. This legislation – which has bipartisan support– would prevent Members of Congress from receiving their taxpayer funded pensions before others can receive their Social Security benefits.

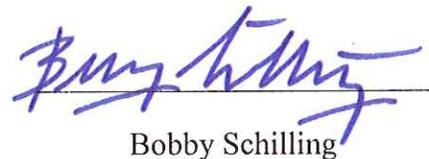
On the road to achieving at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction, many ideas will be suggested. The Congressional Retirement Age Act provides an opportunity for Members of Congress to lead by example and be treated the same as other Americans, all while saving taxpayer money. We urge you to make this common-sense legislation part of any deficit reduction package.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown

United States Senator



Bobby Schilling

United States Representative