

Dear Ed:

Thank you for relaying your strong objection to the federal government spending of Social Security monies on non-Social Security programs and projects. I share your frustration with this practice. It is wrong and it should stop.

Our seniors have a right to know that their retirement benefits are not being used for other purposes. As a constitutional lawyer, I feel strongly about the importance of democracies being straight with the people they serve. I don't believe that standard is being met with Social Security.

The creation of a Social Security "lockbox" for retiree benefits should be a top priority of any Social Security reform discussion Congress pursues this session. Just four years ago we were able to restrict Social Security funds for Social Security purposes exclusively. With the political will, we can enforce the fiscal discipline necessary to do that again. As you know, seniors and workers have lived up to their end of the bargain. Surely government can do the same.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please stay in touch in the future.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator