

## SUGGESTED SOCIAL SECURITY PHONE SCRIPT

Representative's Name

DC Office #

***You will ask to speak to your Congressperson. If he is unavailable and you have the name of the staff member that you spoke to previously about Medicare, ask for him/her. Otherwise, someone who knows the representative's position on Social Security.***

***Take notes on the Rep's position and statements.***

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_, a member of NYSUT and the Professional Staff Congress \ PSC, the union that represents 27,000 City University faculty and staff. I would like to speak to Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_ about Social Security. ***If not available and you have the name of the staff person you spoke to previously about Medicare, ask for him or another staff member who knows the position on Social Security.***

### **A. IF SOMEONE IS AVAILABLE:**

Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ from the PSC, the union of CUNY's faculty and staff. I spoke to you earlier about Medicare, but today my concern is Social Security. Social Security has been a social insurance program that millions of people have been able to count on. Since its inception in 1935, it has provided financial security for retired workers, the disabled, widows and children of deceased workers. (1) The Professional Staff Congress of CUNY believes that it should not be privatized nor benefits cut. It should be expanded to include others. Does Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ oppose any policy that would privatize or in anyway diminish its benefits?

### **2. IF THEY OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION AND DIMINISHMENT OF BENEFITS, SAY THANK YOU AND GO ON TO OTHER ASPECTS OF PROTECTING Social Security.**

Research indicates that the best way to strengthen Social Security and ensure benefits for future generations is to lift the cap so that all wages are captured by the FICA tax. Is Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of lifting the cap? (**AGAIN, TRY TO GET A COMMITMENT**).

**B. IF THE REP OR STAFF MEMBER IS UNCERTAIN OR EVASIVE, AS SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES MAY BE FLUID, OR STILL BEING DEBATED, ASK** – Will you let (me) us know if a debate on this issue is scheduled?

**C. IF THEY SAY THE REP. SUPPORTS PRIVATIZATION OR MEANS TESTING OR RAISING THE AGE AS SOLUTIONS, LET THEM KNOW THAT THE UNION BELIEVES THESE WILL WEAKEN, NOT STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAM.**

**D. IF NONCOMMITTAL, OR DOESN'T KNOW, ASK:** When will you or the Congressperson be available to speak to me about the concerns we have about Social Security?

**E. IF YOU ARE PASSED TO A STAFF MEMBER OR TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVE IS NOT AVAILABLE, ASK FOR SOMEONE ELSE:** Is someone available now who knows the specific commitments of the Representative to Social Security?

**IF NOT AVAILABLE:** When will someone be able to talk with me about Social Security? **THE OFFICE MAY SAY SOMEONE WILL CALL YOU BACK OR SAY WHEN THAT PERSON IS IN THE OFFICE. IF SO, GET A NAME. CALL BACK IF NO ONE HAS RETURNED YOUR CALL WITHIN A FEW DAYS OR WHEN THE OFFICE SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT REACH THE STAFF MEMBER. BE PERSISTENT AND CALL AGAIN IF YOU NEED TO.**

**FOR ALL CALLS:** Thank you for your time. (**IF THEY HAVE SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED ALL YOUR QUESTIONS**). I'll be in touch if I have any