THE VOICE OF MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN

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**OWL'S Statement on AARP and Social Security**

WASHINGTON, DC – On Friday, the media reported that AARP, one of the nation's largest lobbyists, was open to cuts in Social Security benefits as part of a long-term deal to extend the program's solvency. Although AARP has since called the report "misleading," it remains unclear where the organization stands on this key issue.

If AARP is, in fact, willing to support benefit reductions, it would be at odds with most seniors − the very population it claims to represent − and an overwhelming majority of Americans who, in poll after poll, adamantly oppose cuts in Social Security and Medicare. In fact, 88% of Americans say Social Security is now more important than ever.

OWL opposes cuts in Social Security benefits, and instead supports increasing the cap on wages as a means of extending the solvency of the program. Scrapping the cap would raise revenue, close a glaring tax loophole, and is supported by two out of three Americans − including majorities of Republicans and Tea Party supporters.

The AARP report sends a dangerous message at a critical time, when Vice President Biden and his budget team are engaged in difficult negotiations, and when some lawmakers intent on weakening Social Security have falsely implicated the program in deficit politics.

OWL believes that any efforts to strengthen or reform Social Security should be considered separately from debt reduction and should not involve a decrease in benefits.

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