

# Social Security, Medicare Under political fire, Again!

## **Beware of Proposals to Create a Base-Closing Styled Commission to Cut Social Security & Medicare**

It appears retirees will have to fight vigorously once again to protect and defend Social Security and Medicare for ourselves and future generations. Some of the so-called “Blue-dog-Democrats” in the Congress are seeking political opportunities to make deep budget cuts to Social Security and Medicare under the guise of establishing a deficit-reduction commission. Their plan is for the commission to be used as a political vehicle to cut Social Security and Medicare in a safe way and to undermine any universal health care benefit.

There currently are pending several shrewd and unscrupulous proposals to circumvent the normal legislative process by establishing an “entitlements” commission. This commission would be similar to the “military base-closing” type commissions that have enacted devastating reductions to federal programs. In the past Congress has used this type of the commission process to divert accountability for making tough decisions. NYSUT retirees want responsible debt reduction, one that provides a fairer tax system and strengthens, as oppose to slashes Social Security, Medicare and other earned benefits vita to the middle class.

NYSUT retirees must oppose any proposals to create an entitlements or deficit-reduction commission that would override the normal legislate process and replace it with expedited procedures, such as limiting debate and prohibiting amendments. We need you to contact your members of congress at 202/224-3121. This number will connect you to the Capitol switchboard. Ask the operator to connect you with your member of the Congress, and tell them to vote against any plan to create an entitlements commission.