



Students for Saving Social Security

www.SecureOurFuture.org ◆ staff@SecureOurFuture.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2006

Contact: Chaz Cirame
(202) 263-4088
Chaz@SecureOurFuture.org

Thousands of Students Take on AARP Leadership *Student Group Sends Letter to Leadership, Highlighting Hypocrisy*

Washington, DC – Students for Saving Social Security (S4), a grassroots organization with thousands of members spanning nearly 300 chapters in all 50 states, today sent a bold letter to AARP CEO Bill Novelli criticizing AARP's position on Social Security and requesting a meeting to discuss steps to move forward on the issue. Also today, S4 is launching a campaign designed to educate seniors about Social Security, pointing out AARP's inconsistencies on the issue.

In the letter, S4's National Director and Co-Founder, Patrick Wetherille wrote, "The only thing that has been consistent about AARP's position on Social Security is that it is inconsistent." Wetherille also went on to comment "It is ironic that an organization representing those least affected by Social Security reform would do so much to undermine reform for everyone else."

The letter discusses AARP's hypocrisy for blocking reform through Personal Retirement Accounts (PRAs) while also selling investment products to seniors. The letter also discusses a website S4 has recently created to educate seniors about the merits of PRAs and an "AARP Fact Check" to shed light on factual errors in AARP's publications.

As part of S4's comprehensive outreach campaign to seniors, S4 will encourage seniors to visit its website, hold events and symposia with policy experts to discuss the need for Social Security reform, and send members to assisted living homes to speak with seniors face-to-face about the coming retirement crisis.

AARP, which spent over \$10 million to stop reform legislation in 2005, led a campaign that frightened seniors away from supporting necessary reform. To dispel AARP's myths, S4 has created a website with educational games, videos, and fact-check documents that reveal the truth about AARP and expose their misleading statements about PRAs.

S4 has also requested a meeting with AARP leadership to discuss avenues for moving forward on the issue. Wetherille stated that, "With so much at stake, we should at least be continuing the dialogue on Social Security reform and working toward a solution that is fair for all generations." With the meeting request pending, it will be up to AARP leadership to schedule a sit-down with the leaders of S4.

S4 is an organization that believes PRAs are essential to creating a strong and robust Social Security retirement system. Wetherille added that, "Only through personal ownership can individuals be confident that their benefits will not be subject to the political whims of Congress. Students from across the nation join us in this effort to show AARP that our voices will be heard on this very important issue."

###