



Students for Saving Social Security

www.SecureOurFuture.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AARP's Youngest Member Supports Personal Retirement Accounts

Washington, D.C. - Patrick Wetherille, a Georgetown University graduate student who works part-time at a Social Security reform group, received a surprising letter recently. Wetherille, who is 23, was invited to join the 50+ group AARP, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons. The letter states, "Our records show that you haven't yet registered for the benefits of AARP membership, even though you are fully eligible...As a member, you'll have the resources and information you need to get the most out of life over 50." (See letter at www.SecureOurFuture.org/downloads/patrickaarp.png)

Wetherille may be a far way from turning 50, but he is taking up AARP's offer. "There are lots of benefits that come along with being considered a near-senior," Wetherille claims. "Unfortunately, though, there is no early bird special at the Georgetown cafeteria."

All joking aside, Wetherille is joining AARP for a very serious reason: he strongly disagrees with the group's views on Social Security reform. "On the one hand, AARP is encouraging me and my fellow members to invest in various AARP funds—funds which are not 'confusing, mysterious, or expensive,'" Wetherille explains. "But then the group uses an exactly opposite argument in an effort to prevent younger workers from investing part of our payroll taxes into similar funds.

"AARP's arguments against personal retirement accounts run contrary to their goal of security in retirement. More importantly, AARP's arguments run contrary to the views of a great number of AARP members who strongly support personal accounts in Social Security."

In 2005, Wetherille co-founded Students for Saving Social Security (S4), a group that advocates for choice and ownership in Social Security. He is currently studying public policy at Georgetown University and is the youngest known member of AARP.

S4 is a non-partisan, grassroots organization on college campuses advocating for Social Security reform through personal ownership. With chapters in all fifty states, Students for Saving Social Security is the largest student group dedicated to informing and mobilizing young Americans to advocate for reform.

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