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**AARP Joins the Chorus of Calls for a Balanced Solution to Reforming Social Security
June 18, 2011**

According to recent reports, the AARP—the nation's largest seniors' group—is making it clear that slowing the growth of Social Security benefits will have to be part of fixing the nation's underfunded retirement system. Their call for a balanced approach to reform reflects what many experts, lawmakers, and Social Security's own Trustees have been emphasizing for years. This is an important and helpful step in crafting a Social Security reform to put the program back on sound financial footing.

"By joining the conversation over how to reform Social Security, AARP is not only recognizing the financial realities facing the program and the country, but also showing a willingness to put the national interest ahead of more narrow interests," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "No one should be able to credibly deny the serious shortfalls facing the Social Security program, anymore, and I hope other groups from across the political spectrum will follow in joining in this adult conversation."

Last year, Social Security began paying out more in benefits than it was collecting in revenues—a trend that is set to continue indefinitely absent reform. Under current projections, the Social Security program will only have enough revenues and assets in its trust funds to pay full benefits through 2036, at which point all beneficiaries at that time would face an immediate 23 percent cut in benefits. (For more, read our analysis of the 2011 Trustees report: <http://crfb.org/document/analysis-2011-social-security-trustees-report>.)

"With AARP willing to compromise, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle must follow their lead," added MacGuineas. "Lawmakers have a real opportunity to reform the Social Security program to ensure that it will be there for future generations. Reform is in the air, and AARP just made it a whole lot easier for lawmakers to work together constructively."

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