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July 19th, 2011

The Honorable Robert C. Scott. 1201 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

Throughout your career in Congress you have been an unfailing advocate for the interests of average working and middle class Virginians. Today the interests of those Virginians, and of Americans as a whole, are under assault. The same people who helped wreck our economy over the last decade are back and trying to dismantle more of the American dream by slashing Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid as part of the present manufactured debt ceiling "crisis".

Recently members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a letter to Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi commending her strong defense of these programs and urging her to stand up to the bankers and the bullies who want to eliminate them in order to continue to fund their irresponsible tax cuts, loopholes and bail-outs. APV urges you to add your name to this letter (to date 69 members have signed). We believe it is imperative that Leader Pelosi and President Obama know that if they hold to their principles and protect these popular and successful programs there is support in Congress.

One would think that your Republican colleagues would be ashamed to hold Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits hostage while they bargain for further tax breaks for the rich and the corporations that fund their campaigns, but apparently this is not the case. Republicans need to be made to understand that these vital programs, that millions of your constituents paid into and depend on, are off the table in the ongoing debt ceiling talks. Middle-class families, working families, our children, seniors and people with disabilities have sacrificed enough. Demolishing our hard won social safety net to satisfy the ideologues and the radicals is simply unacceptable.

When you and I spoke last Friday at the VADP Democratic Summit in Richmond you were clear and forthright in expressing your support for our shared progressive values of social justice, economic fairness and good government. On behalf of the Alliance for Progressive Values I strongly encourage you to once again rise to the defense of those values by adding your name to the CPC letter and letting the party leadership know that there is no compromising our collective future in order to further reward the rich and the powerful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Rodriguez