



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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**RAHALL URGES USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS
TO FIX NOTCH BABIES**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today called for the use of the Social Security Trust Fund surplus to fix the "notch year" problem that exists in benefits paid to retirees born between 1917 and 1921.

"Let us declare a peace dividend at home now," said Rahall. "We should either use the Fund for its intended purpose-- to pay future retiree's benefits-- or put it to some other "seniors only" use, such as paying for long-term health care or paying the "notch babies" their full benefits."

The "notch" is a result of the 1977 changes in the law that sought to reduce costs by altering the benefit computation method, and it provided a transition period for those born between 1917 and 1921. With those changes, people born before 1917 and still working beyond the age of 62 receive as much as \$100 a month or more in retirement benefits than a person with a similar employment and earnings history born a year or two later.

"This is a perfect opportunity for us to put that Social Security surplus to good use," said Rahall. "The money ought to be used for what it was intended-- paying Social Security benefits."

Rahall added that for over a year now, he has been urging the House Ways and Means Committee to put the "notch" issue on its agenda, but all he has received are empty gestures. Rahall stated that now is the perfect time to get things going on this issue.

"Let us put it to a vote. Up or down, let's settle this thing once and for all so that the American people will know where the responsibility rests in this matter," said Rahall. "I have seen many forms of prejudice in my life, but few are more ridiculous than discrimination against people who fall between the ages of 69 and 73."

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