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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Justice in Aging is Economic Security

What does a future of Justice in Aging look like to you? My vision is a seemingly simple one: every aging person has sufficient monthly income to cover her basic needs. Basic needs that many take for granted like a safe home, healthy food, health care and medicine, transportation, clothing, a phone, and heat. Yet, 6.3 million seniors are living in poverty and making impossible choices about whether to buy groceries or medicine.

A little more than 40 years ago, Congress created the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program with the intention of bolstering the resources of those living in poverty. However, the program has not been updated to meet today's economic realities; the rules regarding savings and other sources of income are too stringent to allow anyone to save a little for things like car repairs, or even accept a small gift of groceries from family members. So now, this program designed to provide enough income to lift seniors and people with disabilities out of poverty, instead keeps them there.

That's why we're working with Members of Congress to ensure that The Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act is reintroduced in Congress this spring. The Act will make much needed updates to the program to ensure that it serves its intended function as a safety net from the injustices of poverty.

Like SSI, the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) was founded more than 40 years ago to fight for economic security for the elderly poor. Since 1972 we've worked with the Social Security Administration to ensure that the program works as intended for all. This type of high-impact administrative advocacy has always been a large part of our mission. Next week, NSCLC will change its name to Justice in Aging. Our work and focus will remain the same.

Best,

Kate Lang
Senior Staff Attorney

P.S. Check your inbox on March 2 for the launch of Justice in Aging!

Tell us what Justice in Aging means to you!

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