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## **CoMPASS Board Gains Four Leading Civic and Student Leaders**

*Newest Advisory Board Members Add Important Perspectives to Generations Together Campaign in Support of Needed Social Security Reform*

Washington, DC – The Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security (CoMPASS) today announced the addition of four people to its national Advisory Board. The new members are Star Parker, founder and president of CURE, the Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education; Mary Martin, chairman of the board of directors for The Senior Coalition; and Jonathan Swanson and Patrick Wetherille, founders of Students for Saving Social Security.

The new Advisory Board members reinforce the need for retirement security for all generations and will help guide CoMPASS's *Generations Together* campaign, which has been extremely active in the past two congressional recesses, with supporters attending town halls, reaching out to local media and rallying around the need for reform.

"We are at a crucial point in the lifetime of the Social Security system," said Parker, a former welfare recipient who is now a leading social activist. "It is time to give every American an opportunity to have some control over their retirement savings. Social Security benefits are earned through a lifetime of hard work, and those currently working deserve peace of mind that they will be given the same security in their retirement as the people they are paying in for today."

"Reforming Social Security is pivotal for the financial security of my generation," said Jonathan Swanson, who is currently a senior at Yale University. "Unless this issue is addressed by Congress now, people of my generation face drastic benefits cuts or huge tax increases. Those of us now entering the workplace should have assurances that our retirement benefits are as secure as those of our grandparents and parents. My generation is happy to pay into Social Security to provide for our parents and grandparents, but we also want to know that Social Security will be there for us when we retire too. College students across the nation are stirring for reform because we simply want the opportunity to save for our future."

The Advisory Board includes Democrats and Republicans who are former Members of Congress, civic leaders, and business representatives with expertise on matters ranging from Social Security to fiscal policy.

The CoMPASS Advisory Board is lead by Former U.S. Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma and Sam Beard, Founder and President of Economic Security 2000. Board members provide bipartisan guidance to the group's Generations Together campaign to educate the public about the need for Social Security reform.

“CoMPASS continues to gain momentum through the Generations Together campaign,” said Derrick Max, Executive Director of CoMPASS. “It is obvious with the addition of these four distinguished Advisory Board members that there is a vast and diverse interest in reforming Social Security.”

Other board members include Leanne Abdnor, Executive Director of Women for Social Security Choice; Herman Cain, CEO and President of T.H.E. New Voice, Inc.; Dan Crippen, former Director of the Congressional Budget Office; Wade Dokken, Chairman of Greenfield Financial; Al Gonzalez, President and CEO of AGE Refining; Janice Bryant Howroyd, founder of ACT 1 Personnel Services; Gwen S. King, former Commissioner of the Social Security Administration; Howard Li, Chairman and CEO of Waitex Group of Companies; William Shipman, Chairman of CarriageOaks Partners LLC; and former U.S. Representative J.C. Watts.

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*Generations Together ([www.generationstogether.net](http://www.generationstogether.net)) is a project of the Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security (CoMPASS). CoMPASS is a 501 (c)(4) with the mission of educating the public on, and advocating for, fundamental Social Security reform*