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Letters to the Editor

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Retirement accounts needed

As a member of AARP, I'm happy that they agree that something must be done with Social Security to save it. However, I think they are going about it in the wrong way.

As a retiree for 13 years, I strongly believe that my benefits will be protected. However, I am most concerned about my kids, my grandkids and my great-grandkids.

The most level-headed idea I've seen is the concept of personal retirement accounts. These accounts would be protected and would grow faster than current Social Security investments. One just needs to look at the stock market for the past 20 years to see that the market has far outpaced traditional Social Security.

Don't be fooled by those who would have you look at a short time frame of the stock market. The markets are for the long haul, and over time -- more than one or two years -- people's money grows.

Hopefully, our representatives in Congress, such as Speaker J. Dennis Hastert and Jerry Weller, will not cave in to the gloom-and doomers who claim personal retirement accounts will kill Social Security. From my perspective, personal retirement accounts are the way to go.

Jerry Smoot,

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