

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3305

March 17, 2009

Attorney General Roy Cooper
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Attorney General Cooper,

It has recently come to my attention that constituents in North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District have been receiving highly deceptive fundraising letters from a group called Council of Seniors. The letters, which make misleading claims about Social Security money flowing to Mexico and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, target citizens concerned about the state of America's Social Security program.

This deceptive letter, which attempts to scare recipients into donating to the Council of Seniors, was mailed to many unsuspecting North Carolina citizens. During this time of considerable economic uncertainty, misleading our state's senior citizens—many living on fixed incomes—into making a donation to “save” their future Social Security is not only morally abhorrent, but it also seems legally suspect.

I respectfully request that your office investigate whether this group is in violation of any North Carolina law with this deceptive fundraising letter. Attached to this request is an example of the letter that has gone to many households in my district. Additionally, please find a news release from the office of the Indiana Attorney General warning about a different bogus mailer from this same group.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. My hope is that we can work together to alert recipients of these kinds of letters about the nature of deceptive groups like this one. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions you may have about this issue.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress