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AARP Response to Social Security COLA Announcement

WASHINGTON, DC — Today AARP released the following statement from AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins in response to the **announced** cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security beneficiaries in 2017:

“As we head in to our final presidential debate, having largely ignored discussion of some major issues facing our nation, one issue that demands attention from the candidates and moderators is the future of Social Security. And with today’s small 0.3 percent COLA increase announcement for Social Security beneficiaries, candidates have yet another opportunity to address this issue.

“Over the last five years, Social Security COLA’s have remained small or nonexistent at **1.7 percent or lower**, even though every cent can matter to beneficiaries and their families. After last year’s **zero** COLA, this year’s announcement doesn’t offer much help to the millions of families who depend on their Social Security benefits.

As prescription prices **skyrocket** and Medicare premiums and other health costs increase, many older Americans have understandable concerns. Along with many groups, AARP has also asked Congress to **ensure** that Medicare premiums and deductibles don't skyrocket next year.

“In our final presidential debate of 2016, we urge the moderator to finally question the candidate on Social Security and get them to **Take a Stand**. Voters need to hear candidates’ positions on our largest and most important program before they cast their votes.

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About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million that helps people turn their goals and dreams into “Real Possibilities” by changing the way America defines aging. With staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and promote the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare security, financial security, and personal fulfillment. AARP also advocates for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world’s largest circulation magazine, AARP The Magazine, and AARP Bulletin. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @aarp on Twitter.

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