

Confirmation Hearing

Statement by Dana K. Bilyeu
Social Security Advisory Board Nominee

Before the Committee on Finance
United States Senate

December 5, 2006

Statement of Dana K. Bilyeu¹

Mr. Chairman, Senator Baucus, and members of the committee:

I am truly honored to be here before you today as a nominee of the President to the Social Security Advisory Board. If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with the staff and other members of the Advisory Board on the important issues facing Social Security today and into the future. The Advisory Board performs a valuable service by providing bipartisan recommendations to the President, Congress and the Commissioner to strengthen the Social Security programs. It is my intention to work diligently to support this mission as a member of the Board.

The Social Security System impacts most people in our country every single day. They go to work, pay their taxes, provide for themselves and their families and ultimately expect to retire, at least in part, based upon the benefits provided by Social Security. Over 160 million workers pay in to Social Security and 48 million beneficiaries receive benefits.

Not only is Social Security central to the retirement security of the vast majority of Americans, it is of vital personal importance to me as the daughter of two recipients and the mother of a future recipient. My parent's generation, my generation, my son's generation and all those that follow will look to Social Security for some portion of their retirement income, and with that retirement income, dignity and independence in their final years. The work of the Advisory Board provides tremendous research and bipartisan advice to the policy makers charged with oversight of this program that is one of the mainstays to preserving quality of life for our citizens.

If confirmed, it would be my privilege to participate in this effort. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and I would be happy to answer any questions.

¹I am the executive officer of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada. I am a member of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Government Finance Officer's Association, The National Council on Teacher Retirement, The National Conference of Public Employee Retirement Systems, and the International Foundation for Employee Benefit Plans, Public Employee Advisory Board. I am licensed to practice law in Nevada and California, with membership in the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys.