



SOCIAL SECURITY WORKS
815 16th St., 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
SocialSecurityWorks.org

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders,

We are writing to express our continued, strong support for your legislation, S.731, the Social Security Expansion Act.

Our Social Security system provides modest but essential economic support when wages are lost as the result of death, serious and permanent disability, or old age. Social Security has allowed millions of seniors, veterans, surviving spouses, people with disabilities, children, and others to maintain their standards of living and prevented destitution since its enactment in 1935. It is the most universal, secure and efficient pension plan around, but its benefits are modest by virtually any standard.

Your legislation increases Social Security's benefits across-the-board. In addition, it increases Social Security's minimum benefit so that those who work a lifetime at low wages will not retire into poverty. Third, it adopts a more accurate cost of living increase, so that Social Security's modest benefits don't erode in value more and more with each passing year. To restore Social Security to long range actuarial balance, including paying for these improvements, S. 731 imposes new taxes on those with annual incomes in excess of \$250,000.

According to a newly released analysis by the Social Security Administration, your legislation will pay fully for every penny of improved benefits while restoring Social Security to long-range actuarial balance. Your legislation will ensure that today's workers, including those just entering the workforce can rest assured that they will receive all of the Social Security benefits they are earning with every paycheck.

Thank you for your visionary proposal, for your leadership on this issue, and, more generally, for your tireless work on behalf of the interests of today's and future beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman".

Nancy J. Altman
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Lawson".

Alex Lawson
Executive Director