

Workers Should Have the Same Guaranteed Pensions as Members of Congress

Endorse the Pensions for All Act

There is a retirement crisis in America that Congress must address.

In our country today, nearly [half](#) of older workers between the ages of 55 and 64 have no savings at all and no idea how they will be able to retire with any shred of dignity or respect.

Fifty years ago, it was not uncommon for corporations to provide workers with a defined benefit pension plan that guaranteed a monthly income in retirement. Back then many corporations made a promise to their workers: If they worked at the same company for a period of time they would be rewarded with a monthly check that would enable them to live comfortably in retirement. The longer you worked at the same company, the bigger your retirement check would be. And the employer would bear all the responsibility to fund the pensions of their workforce.

Sadly, those days are mostly behind us. In 1975, 44 percent of workers in the private sector had a traditional defined benefit pension [plan](#). Today, that figure has fallen to just 9% according to the Congressional Research Service.

And the results for workers have been tragic.

In [1983](#), 31% of Americans were at risk of not being able to maintain their standard of living in old age. In 2022, that number rose to 39%. In other words, we are moving in exactly the wrong direction in terms of economic security.

While the retirement crisis is getting worse for working families, the situation is much different for Members of Congress. Today, every Member of Congress and every federal worker in the Trump Administration has a defined benefit pension plan that guarantees a monthly income in retirement through the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Every worker in America should have that same level of retirement security.

Therefore, we hope you will co-sponsor the Pensions for All Act.

This legislation would require corporations to either:

- Provide a traditional retirement plan to their workers that is equivalent or better than the one provided to new members of Congress under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS); or
- Pay enough contributions into FERS that would enable all of their workers to receive the same amount of retirement benefits as Member of Congress do.

Importantly, this legislation would provide important financial protections for the self-employed and small businesses. Under this bill, they would only contribute half as much into FERS as large corporations do.

Finally, this legislation requires corporations not to decrease other forms of compensation in order to comply with the provisions in this bill.

The Pensions for All Act would provide pension plan coverage to the more than [56 million working-class Americans](#) who do not have a way to easily save for retirement out of their regular paycheck.

In the richest country in the history of the world, a secure and dignified retirement should be available to every American, not just the extreme wealthy. We can no longer tolerate a system in which we have the [highest senior poverty rate](#) of nearly every major country on earth. It is unacceptable that nearly [22%](#) of the elderly in America are trying to survive on an income of less than \$15,000 while nearly half make less than \$30,000 a year.

This legislation would ensure that every corporation in America provides a decent retirement plan for their workers. And if corporations choose not to offer defined benefit pension plans, their workers should be allowed to receive the same type of pension that members of Congress receive.