

## Social Security Expansion Act Fact Sheet

Social Security is one of the most popular and successful government programs in the history of our country. For more than [80 years](#), through good times and bad, Social Security has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American on time and without delay.

In 2021, Social Security lifted [26.3 million](#) Americans out of poverty, including more than 18 million seniors. Before it was created in 1935, about half of our nation's seniors were [living in poverty](#). Today, the senior poverty rate is 10.3 percent.

Yet, despite this success, tens of millions of seniors and 25 percent of people with disabilities are [still struggling](#) to get by, and [many older workers fear](#) that they will never be able to retire with security and dignity.

The most recent evidence indicates that nearly [40 percent of seniors](#) rely on Social Security for a majority of their income and one in every seven seniors rely on it for more than 90 percent of their income. And to make matters worse, nearly half of Americans age 55 and older have [no retirement savings](#). Meanwhile, the average Social Security benefit is only [\\$1,688 a month](#).

Social Security is not going broke. Social Security has a [\\$2.85 trillion](#) surplus in its trust fund and can pay every promised benefit to every eligible American until the year 2035. After that, the Social Security Administration estimates that there will be enough funding available to pay [80 percent](#) of promised benefits.

Given this reality, our job is not to cut Social Security, as many of our Republican colleagues in Congress want to do. Our job is to expand Social Security and extend its solvency so that everyone in America can retire with the respect that they have earned and deserve after a lifetime of hard work. That's what the Social Security Expansion Act is all about.

The Social Security Expansion Act would:

- **Extend the solvency of Social Security for 75 years** by requiring the wealthiest American households to pay their fair share of taxes. Today, because of the earnings cap on Social Security taxes, a CEO making \$20 million a year pays the same amount of money into Social Security as someone who makes \$160,200 a year. This legislation would lift this cap and subject all income above \$250,000 to the Social Security payroll tax. Under this bill, over 93 percent of households would not see their taxes go up by one penny.
- **Expand Social Security benefits across-the-board for current and new beneficiaries.** Under this bill, Social Security benefits for current and existing recipients would be increased by \$2,400 a year.
- **Increase Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments (COLAs).** This bill would more accurately measure the spending patterns for seniors by adopting the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). Older Americans, by and large, are not going out on spending sprees buying big screen TVs, laptops, or the latest high-tech gadgets. Rather, they spend a disproportionate amount of their income on health care and prescription drugs, which would be reflected in the formula for calculating COLAs under this legislation.

- **Require millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share into Social Security.** Currently, workers have 12.4 percent taken out of each paycheck and contributed to the Social Security trust fund, half paid by the employer and half by the worker. This bill would require the wealthy pay the same 12.4 percent on their investment and business income, by increasing the net investment income tax by 12.4 percent and applying it to certain business income not already covered by payroll taxes.
- **Improve the Special Minimum Benefit for Social Security recipients.** This bill would help low-income workers stay out of poverty by increasing the Special Minimum Benefit and indexing the benefit level so that it is equal to 125 percent of the poverty line, or over \$18,000 for a single worker who had worked their full career.
- **Restore student benefits up to age 22 for children of disabled or deceased workers,** if the child is a full-time student in a college or vocational school. This legislation would restore student benefits to help educate children of deceased or disabled parents that were eliminated in 1983.
- **Combine the Disability Insurance Trust Fund with the Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund** to help senior citizens and people with disabilities.

There are 56 groups who endorsed the bill:

1. Social Security Works
2. AFA CWA
3. AFSCME
4. Alliance for Retired Americans
5. American Federation of Government Employees
6. American Federation of Teachers
7. American Postal Workers Union
8. BMWED/IBT
9. International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
10. United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)
11. United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
12. National Education Association
13. Indivisible
14. MoveOn
15. National Domestic Workers Alliance
16. People's Action
17. Public Citizen
18. Care in Action
19. CASA
20. Center for Medicare Advocacy
21. Center for Popular Democracy
22. Blue Future
23. Church World Service
24. CommonDefense.us
25. Connecticut Citizen Action Group
26. Demand Progress
27. Health Care Awareness Month
28. Hunger Free America
29. Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
30. Just Care USA

31. National Partnership for Women & Families
32. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
33. NJ State Industrial Union Council
34. Oregonizers
35. Our Revolution
36. Right to Health Action (R2H Action)
37. Sunrise Movement
38. The National Employment Law Project
39. Upper West Side Action Group: MoveOn/Indivisible/SwingLeft
40. Working Families Party
41. National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
42. Indivisible Marin
43. Children's Aid
44. P Street
45. East New York Farms
46. Partners for Dignity & Rights
47. Generations United
48. Broadway Community, Inc.
49. National Council of Jewish Women
50. New York State Public Health Association
51. Justice in Aging
52. National Women's Law Center
53. Americans for Tax Fairness
54. National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
55. Labor Campaign for Single Payer
56. American Medical Student Association