



Expand Social Security Handout

On September 13, 2018, a new Congressional Expand Social Security Caucus was established to protect and expand Social Security benefits. More than 150 Senate and House members have joined this caucus, led by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Representatives John Larson (CT-01), Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Raul Grijalva (AZ-03), Conor Lamb (PA-18) and Terri Sewell (AL-07).

The Alliance for Retired Americans endorsed the Strengthen Social Security Act, H.R. 6929, introduced by Representative Linda Sanchez (CA-38) last year. This legislation, which will need to be refiled:

- increases benefits on average by about \$65 per month or \$800 per year;
- requires that Social Security annual cost of living adjustments (COLA) be calculated using the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E). The CPI-E more accurately reflects the rising cost of goods and services used by older Americans than the current formula;
- increases the special minimum benefit for low-wage earners;
- helps widows and widowers by ensuring that surviving spouses receive 75% of the total household Social Security benefits that they received prior to their spouse's death; and
- increases the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds by raising the cap on earnings subject to Social Security contributions, which is capped at \$132,900 in 2019.

Join Social Security Expansion Caucus

The Alliance for Retired Americans asks all members of Congress to join the Expand Social Security Caucus to demonstrate their commitment to strengthening and expanding Social Security for current and future generations.