



Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act

On October 26, 2021, Representative John Larson (CT) and Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) and Chris Van Hollen (MD) introduced the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, H.R. 5723 and S. 3071. This bill expands Social Security benefits for all beneficiaries and requires that wealthy Americans pay their fair share.

Alliance for Retired Americans Position

The Alliance endorses the Social Security 2100 Act and urges Congress to pass this bill.

The bill will:

Increase Benefits and Improve COLA

The bill provides a two percent benefit increase for all current and future beneficiaries. It also adopts the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which would ensure seniors get an adequate cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Improve Benefits for Widow(er)s

Widowed spouses would be able to keep 75% of the Social Security household benefits they received prior to the death of their spouse.

Provide a Caregiver Credit

The bill provides up to 5 years of Social Security earnings credit for caregivers who drop out of the workforce or reduced hours to care for a child under 12 or a dependent relative.

Increase Benefits for Low Wage Workers and Older Retirees

The bill ensures that the “special minimum benefit” for people who earned low-wages are at least 125% of the Federal Poverty Level and provides a 5% benefit increase to those who have been retired for over 15 years. The benefit increase will be gradually phased-in over five years.

Grandparent Benefits

The bill increases access to benefits for children living with their grandparents.

Repeal the WEP and GPO

The bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which claws back the Social Security benefits of public sector workers who also receive a pension, and the Government Pension Offset, which reduces the Social Security spousal benefits of public sector workers with pensions. The WEP and GPO affect more than 2.2 million Americans.

Lower Taxes for Some Seniors

Social Security benefits are taxed when beneficiaries have other income in addition to their benefits, if their income exceeds certain thresholds. The bill raises the threshold when Social Security income must be included for tax purposes from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for singles and \$32,000 to \$50,000 for married couples.

Repeal the Five Month Waiting Period for Disability Insurance

The bill eliminates the waiting period (currently 5 months, except for individuals with ALS who do not have a waiting period) to receive Social Security disability benefits.

Provide Gradual Reduction or Offsets for Disabled Individuals with Earnings

The bill gradually reduces the Social Security benefits for disabled beneficiaries who have earnings by reducing it \$1 for every 2 dollars earned above the threshold, which is currently set at \$2,190 a month.

Extend Child Student Benefits

The bill extends child student benefits to children of deceased, disabled or retired workers up to age 25 if the child is at least a part-time student.

Extend Trust Fund Solvency

The bill raises the payroll caps set at \$147,000 in 2022 for individuals making over \$400,000, ensuring wealthy Americans will pay their fair share. The added payroll contributions will help pay for the benefit improvement and extend the solvency of the trust fund until 2038.

Social Security Statements

Clarifies that Social Security statements must be mailed out to all workers 25 and over who are not receiving benefits, unless they sign up for electronic delivery.

Office Closings

Prevents the closure of Social Security hearing and field offices unless certain requirements are met.

*Benefit improvements must be reauthorized after 5 years.