

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

...don't cut it.

Bills Introduced in the 114th Congress to Expand Social Security

Bill Name	Changes to Social Security	Lifts the cap	CPI-E	Extends Solvency	Other Benefits Increases
Social Security Expansion Act S. 731 Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	Immediately subjects earnings above \$250k to the payroll tax. Creates temporary “doughnut hole” of earnings not taxed between current cap and \$250k, which will close steadily as the current cap grows to \$250k. Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Changes the benefit formula in a way which boosts benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries by approximately \$65 per month.	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Social Security 2100 Act H.R. 1391 & S. 1904 Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) Rep. John Larson (D-CT-1)	Provides an across the board 2% increase for all beneficiaries so that all Social Security recipients would see an immediate benefit increase starting in 2015. Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Protects the lowest income beneficiaries by ensuring that those who paid into the system receive a minimum benefit equal to 125% of the poverty line. Over 24 years, increases the payroll tax on workers and employers from 6.2% to 7.4%. This is a 0.05% increase each year would be the equivalent of 50 cents per week cumulatively. Lift the cap by applying the payroll tax to earners making more than \$400,000. Ensures the solvency of the DI Trust Fund through a clean reallocation of the payroll tax.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act H.R. 1756 Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI-4)	Increases the special minimum benefit paid to workers who have spent long careers in low-wage jobs. Gives credits of up to five years toward the minimum benefit for a parent who leaves the workforce to raise a child younger than six years old. Provides a 5% increase for the very old. Restores the benefits of survivors in college up to age 22. Eliminates the cap on taxable income and gradually increases FICA.	✓		✓	✓
Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act S. 960 & H.R. 1811 Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL-21)	Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Lifts the cap and asks higher income earners to pay Social Security on all their earnings in order to increase the program’s revenue stream and extend the overall solvency of the program. Extends Social Security’s solvency by gradually eliminating the tax cap over 7 years.	✓	✓	✓	

Bill Name	Changes to Social Security	Lifts the cap	CPI-E	Extends Solvency	Other Benefits Increases
Fair Adjustment and Income Revenue for Social Security Act H.R. 1984 Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4)	Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Extends Social Security's solvency by gradually eliminating the tax cap. Extends the solvency of the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund by allocating tax revenue from incomes above the indexed cap to the disability fund.	✓	✓	✓	
Keeping Social Security Solvent Act H.R. 2078 Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20)	Eliminates the cap on taxable income	✓		✓	
Social Security Fairness Act S. 1651 Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)	Repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which reduces the Social Security benefits of workers and spouses/widow(er)s who receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government for employment not covered by Social Security.				✓
One Social Security Act H.R. 3150 Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-34)	Ensures that all Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries receive 100% of their earned benefit beyond 2016. Does not change Social Security's overall financial condition.			✓	
CPI-E Act of 2015 H.R. 3351 Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA-17)	Switches to the more accurate CPI-E.				✓
Caregiver Credit Act H.R. 3377 Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY-17)	Modestly enhances caregivers' Social Security benefits. Anyone spending at least 80 hours a month providing care to a dependent relative under the age of 12 or a chronically dependent individual is eligible to claim the credit, for up to 60 months. The credit would be structured in a way to complement earnings and would be progressive, with those not receiving income earning a higher credit, eventually phasing out when an individual earns more than the average national wage.				✓
SAFE Social Security Act S. 1940 Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	Ensures millionaires and billionaires pay the same rate as the rest of Americans by gradually eliminating the Social Security tax cap. Changes the benefit formula in a way which boosts benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries by approximately \$70 per month. Benefit increase is targeted to help those in the low and middle of the income distribution. Switches to the more accurate CPI-E.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Security Parent Penalty Repeal Act H.R. 4529 Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-FL-18)	Improves Social Security benefits for parents who leave the workforce to care for a new child. Lifts the cap by tying increases to twice the average wage index, minimum 3% per year. This plan would reduce the shortfall by over 1% of payroll (about 1/3)	✓		✓	✓

Other Related Bills

Bill Name	Details
<p>Social Security Fraud & Error Prevention Act of 2015 H.R. 1419</p> <p>Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-34)</p>	<p>Provides resources dedicated for program integrity. Increases funds dedicated to Cooperative Disability Investigations Units (CDIs). Punishes internet funding</p>
<p>Social Security Accountability Act H.R. 2169</p> <p>Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY-26)</p>	<p>Requires SSA to collect caseload statistics. Requires SSA provide justifications for all office closings. Public notice and input would be mandatory before office closings.</p>
<p>SSI Restoration Act S. 1387 & H.R. 2442</p> <p>Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3)</p>	<p>Indexes earned income limit to \$364 a month. Indexes general income limits to \$112. Indexes cash and asset limits to \$10,000 for an individual and \$15,000 for a couple. Allows beneficiaries to receive financial, food, and housing support from friends and family.</p>
<p>Social Security Earned Benefits Payment Act S. 2090 & H.R. 3621</p> <p>Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI-9)</p>	<p>“Clean reallocation” between the SSDI and OASI trust funds. Prevents a 20-percent cut in disability insurance benefits at the end of 2016. Extends SSDI trust fund solvency to 2034.</p>
<p>Stop Social Security Garnishment for Student Debt Act H.R. 3967</p> <p>Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ-3)</p>	<p>Amends title 31 US code to prohibit administrative offset of Social Security benefit payments with respect to claims arising from Federal student loans, and for other people</p>
<p>Seniors and Veterans Emergency Benefits Act (SAVE Benefits Act) S.2251 & H.R. 4144</p> <p>Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL-8)</p>	<p>In the absence of a 2016 COLA adjustment, provides a onetime \$581 lump sum payment to recipients of Social Security and Veterans Benefits. Funds are provided through the permanent closure of a tax loophole on executive bonuses. Additional funds after this year will continue to go to the Social Security Trust fund.</p>
<p>Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act S. 2387</p> <p>Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)</p>	<p>Repeals the 1996 Social Security garnishment rules for Social Security. The legislation would prevent Social Security from being garnished for federal student debt, home loans owed to the Veterans Administration, and food stamps overpayments.</p>
<p>Retirement and Income Security Enhancements (RAISE) Act S. 2293</p> <p>Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)</p>	<p>Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to entitle divorced spouses to OASDI benefits after 5 (currently 10) years of marriage. Makes the monthly divorced spouse's benefits equal to one-half of the former spouse's primary insurance amount, reduced 10% for each year less than 10 the individual was married to the former spouse.</p> <p>Revises the widow's or widower's insurance benefit for any month to equal the greater of: (1) the PIA of the deceased; or (2) 75% of the sum of any old-age or</p>

	<p>disability insurance benefit plus the primary insurance amount of the deceased individual.</p> <p>Reduces a widow's or widower's insurance benefits for any month if that individual is also entitled to an old age or disability insurance benefit greater than the widow's or widower's insurance benefit. Sets the benefit in such a case at the level of the primary insurance amount of the deceased individual.</p> <p>Amends SSA title II and the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to extend benefits for full-time students up to age 23 (currently age 19) who are enrolled at an educational institution.</p> <p>Imposes a 2% OASDI surtax on employees and employers when the individuals income is \$400,000 or higher. The OASDI surtax is 4% for the self-employed with an income at or above \$400,000. Adjusts the \$400,000 threshold each year according to a specified indexing formula.</p>
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Other Expansion Assets

Asset Name	Details
<p>Senate Budget Expansion Amendment <u>S.Con.Res. 11, Amendment 1094</u></p> <p>Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)</p> <p><u>42 Democratic Senators voted YES on March 27, 2015</u></p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the sustainable expansion of benefits under the Social Security program and promoting the complete long-term actuarial solvency of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.</p>
<p>Resolution to Protect & Expand Social Security <u>H.Res. 393</u></p> <p>Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9)</p>	<p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives supports policies to protect and expand Social Security and secure its long-term future in a fair and responsible manner.</p>