

SENIORS AND VETERANS EMERGENCY (SAVE) BENEFITS ACT

IMPACT IN MICHIGAN'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND NATIONWIDE

America's CEO's got a big raise last year – their pay increased by 3.9%. That's big money – we're talking about a \$635,000 pay raise, on average, for a group of CEOs who already made an average of \$16 million each in pay last year.ⁱ But millions of Americans who rely on Social Security and critical veterans' benefits are getting the short end of the stick – they won't get any increase in benefits at all in 2016, for only the third time since 1975.

The SAVE Benefits Act makes sure that seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities can make ends meet. It provides them with an emergency payment of approximately \$580 – equal to the same 3.9% increase as CEO's – and fully pays for it by closing one of the many tax loopholes that subsidize giant pay packages for executives.

- **Around 70 million Americans will receive a benefit increase under the SAVE Benefits Act.** That's more than one in five Americans.ⁱⁱ *In Michigan, approximately 2.3 million residents – 23% of the state's population – would get an increase as a result of this bill.ⁱⁱⁱ These include:*
 - 172,000 children;
 - 792,000 women over the age of 65; and
 - 354,000 disabled workers.
 - State and local government retirees who are not covered by Social Security^{iv}
- **Over 9 million veterans receiving Social Security benefits would get a benefit increase from the SAVE Benefits Act.** Veterans and their families receiving pension or compensation benefits would also receive a benefit increase.^v *In Michigan about 103,000 veterans and their family members receive pension or compensation benefits.*
- **Over 1 million people would be lifted out of poverty under the SAVE Benefits Act.** Social Security keeps almost 15 million seniors out of poverty.^{vi} *In Michigan, the SAVE Benefits Act would lift about 85,000 people out of poverty.*
- **The SAVE Benefits Act would pump about \$41 billion into the U.S. economy.^{vii} In Michigan, the economic benefit would be about \$1.3 billion.**
- **This modest pay raise for America's seniors will make a big difference for those living on the edge in Michigan.** *An extra \$581 would be enough for a senior to:*
 - *Buy almost three months of groceries.^{viii}*
 - *Cover the annual average total out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs by Medicare beneficiaries.^{ix}*

Importance of SAVE Benefits Act to Michigan's Congressional Districts (1/2)								
	State Total	Congressional District						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$1.3 billion	\$122 million	\$93 million	\$88 million	\$106 million	\$112 million	\$96 million	\$97 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	9,884,242	705,172	711,835	714,507	703,410	695,505	708,717	703,242
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	2,121,776	200,557	148,791	138,392	171,810	172,824	153,230	158,423
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	21.5%	28.4%	20.9%	19.4%	24.4%	24.8%	21.6%	22.5%
Social Security beneficiaries								
Women beneficiaries	1,082,168							
Retired worker beneficiaries	1,363,480	136,714	96,691	89,730	112,251	102,894	101,726	105,106
Disabled worker beneficiaries	353,522	29,360	25,880	23,807	27,233	33,659	25,056	24,804
Widow(er)s receiving benefits	152,275	13,732	9,310	8,561	12,122	13,570	9,737	10,785
Spouses receiving benefits	83,594	8,392	5,165	4,766	7,886	7,747	4,893	6,063
Children receiving benefits	168,905	12,359	11,745	11,528	12,318	14,954	11,818	11,665
Sources and explanatory note	U.S. Census Bureau, <i>ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates</i> , "2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates," 2014. SSA, "Michigan," <i>Congressional Statistics</i> , December 2014, 2015. SSA, <i>Annual Statistical Supplement</i> , 2015, "Table 5.J5.1: Number by state or other area and sex, December 2014," 2015. *Calculation by Social Security Works based on Social Security and SSI beneficiaries in each congressional district. This number does not include veterans and may likely understate the full economic impact of the bill.							

Importance of SAVE Benefits Act to Michigan's Congressional Districts (2/2)							
	Congressional District						
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$79 million	\$96 million	\$96 million	\$81 million	\$84 million	\$96 million	\$99 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	713,390	712,724	704,740	711,982	706,046	692,167	700,805
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	128,230	151,063	156,056	133,866	131,943	134,669	141,922
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	18.0%	21.2%	22.1%	18.8%	18.7%	19.5%	20.3%
Social Security beneficiaries							
Women beneficiaries							
Retired worker beneficiaries	87,671	96,389	103,290	95,611	80,505	70,493	84,409
Disabled worker beneficiaries	18,067	24,352	23,099	14,784	23,384	32,492	27,545
Widow(er)s receiving benefits	8,108	12,943	11,809	9,709	10,229	11,207	10,453
Spouses receiving benefits	5,053	6,033	7,154	5,842	6,057	3,968	4,575
Children receiving benefits	9,331	11,346	10,704	7,920	11,768	16,509	14,940
Sources and explanatory note	<p>U.S. Census Bureau, <i>ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates</i>, "2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates," 2014. SSA, "Michigan," <i>Congressional Statistics</i>, December 2014, 2015. SSA, <i>Annual Statistical Supplement, 2015</i>, "Table 5.J5.1: Number by state or other area and sex, December 2014," 2015. *Calculation by Social Security Works based on Social Security and SSI beneficiaries in each congressional district. This number does not include veterans and may likely understate the full economic impact of the bill.</p>						

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ⁱ “Top CEOs Make 300 Times More than Typical Workers,” Economic Policy Institute, June 21, 2015. Available at: <http://www.epi.org/publication/top-ceos-make-300-times-more-than-workers-pay-growth-surpasses-market-gains-and-the-rest-of-the-0-1-percent/>

ⁱⁱ Beneficiaries include Social Security beneficiaries, SSI beneficiaries, railroad retirement beneficiaries, veterans receiving compensation and pension benefits, and state and local retirees not eligible for Social Security.

ⁱⁱⁱ State-level figure combines Social Security beneficiaries and SSI beneficiaries who do not receive Social Security. Figure does not include beneficiaries of the Railroad Retirement program, state and local government retirees who are not covered by Social Security, or veterans (except those receiving Social Security).

^{iv} Children: Social Security Administration, Table 5.J10, December 2013

(<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/5j.html#table5.j10>). Women over the age of 65:

(<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/5j.html#table5.j3>). Disabled workers: Social Security Administration, Table 5.J2, December 2013

(<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/5j.html#table5.j2>).

^v Social Security Administration, “Veteran Beneficiaries, 2014,” Available at:

<https://www.ssa.gov/retirementpolicy/fact-sheets/veteran-beneficiaries.html>. Veterans Administration, *Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Report Fiscal Year 2014* (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/ABR-IntroAppendix-FY14-10202015.pdf>). Figure includes veterans and their families receiving pension or compensation benefits. Figure does not include veterans receiving a benefit increase through Social Security or recipients of Chapter 18, Title 38 benefits, who would also receive a payment under this bill.

^{vi} Paul N. Van De Water, Arloc Sherman, and Kathy Ruffing, *Social Security Keeps 22 Million Americans Out of Poverty: A State-by-State Analysis* (Oct. 25, 2013) (online at <http://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security-keeps-22-million-americans-out-of-poverty-a-state-by-state-analysis>).

^{vii} Calculation multiplies average benefit of \$581 by estimated total number of beneficiaries, excluding veterans beneficiaries.

^{viii} USDA, “Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels, U.S. Average, August 2015,” (September 2015) (online at <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CostofFoodAug2015.pdf>).

^{ix} Claire Noel-Miller, Medicare Beneficiaries’ Out of Pocket Spending for Health Care (October 2015) (online at <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015/medicare-beneficiaries-out-of-pocket-spending-for-health-care.pdf>). Based on 2011 spending data. Out-of-pocket spending varies according to factors such as age, gender, health status, and whether or not a beneficiary lives in a long-term care facility.