

SENIORS AND VETERANS EMERGENCY (SAVE) BENEFITS ACT

IMPACT IN NEW JERSEY'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 New Jersey, approximately 1.7 million residents – 19% of the state's population – would get an increase as a result of this bill.ⁱⁱⁱ These include:*
 - 106,000 children;
 - 667,000 women over the age of 65; and
 - 202,000 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 New Jersey about 57,000 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 New Jersey, the SAVE Benefits Act would lift about 5,000 people out of poverty.*
- **The SAVE Benefits Act would pump about \$41 billion into the U.S. economy.^{vii} In New Jersey, the economic benefit would be about \$983 million.**
- **This modest pay raise for America's seniors will make a big difference for those living on the edge in New Jersey.** *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 New Jersey's Congressional Districts (1/2)

	State Total	Congressional District					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$983 million	\$89 million	\$100 million	\$101 million	\$94 million	\$80 million	\$70 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	8,867,909	733,235	733,779	738,478	734,432	736,245	738,730
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	1,568,016	139,217	160,469	168,148	155,525	132,629	112,773
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	17.7%	19.0%	21.9%	22.8%	21.2%	18.0%	15.3%
Social Security beneficiaries							
Women beneficiaries	833,801						
Retired worker beneficiaries	1,100,899	89,777	109,081	119,763	114,402	99,175	76,509
Disabled worker beneficiaries	203,208	23,888	25,069	21,315	16,656	12,130	16,541
Widow(er)s receiving benefits	101,724	9,988	10,106	11,239	10,689	8,495	7,604
Spouses receiving benefits	57,327	4,380	4,470	5,322	5,477	5,597	4,346
Children receiving benefits	104,858	11,184	11,743	10,509	8,301	7,232	7,773
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, "New Jersey," <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.						

Importance of SAVE Benefits Act to New Jersey's Congressional Districts (2/2)						
	Congressional District					
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$73 million	\$62 million	\$76 million	\$75 million	\$82 million	\$80 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	738,426	756,575	744,305	729,719	740,274	743,711
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	120,976	89,479	118,629	106,972	135,722	127,477
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	16.4%	11.8%	15.9%	14.7%	18.3%	17.1%
Social Security beneficiaries						
<i>Women beneficiaries</i>						
<i>Retired worker beneficiaries</i>	90,328	57,411	83,354	67,870	104,129	89,100
<i>Disabled worker beneficiaries</i>	10,920	15,522	15,152	19,366	10,683	15,966
<i>Widow(er)s receiving benefits</i>	7,769	5,562	7,442	6,423	8,784	7,623
<i>Spouses receiving benefits</i>	5,046	4,041	5,294	3,119	5,743	4,492
<i>Children receiving benefits</i>	6,913	6,943	7,387	10,194	6,383	10,296
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.</p> <p>SSA, "New Jersey," <i>Congressional Statistics</i>, December 2014, 2015.</p> <p>SSA, <i>Annual Statistical Supplement</i>, 2015, "Table 5.J5.1: Number by state or other area and sex, December 2014," 2015.</p> <p>*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.