

SENIORS AND VETERANS EMERGENCY (SAVE) BENEFITS ACT

IMPACT IN VIRGINIA'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 Virginia, approximately 1.5 million residents – 18% of the state's population – would get an increase as a result of this bill.ⁱⁱⁱ These include:*
 - 102,000 children;
 - 558,000 women over the age of 65; and
 - 211,000 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 Virginia about 170,000 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 Virginia, the SAVE Benefits Act would lift about 14,000 people out of poverty.*
- **The SAVE Benefits Act would pump about \$41 billion into the U.S. economy.^{vii} In Virginia, the economic benefit would be about \$883 million.**
- **This modest pay raise for America's seniors will make a big difference for those living on the edge in Virginia.** *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 Virginia's Congressional Districts (1/2)							
	State Total	Congressional District					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$883 million	\$76 million	\$73 million	\$87 million	\$84 million	\$108 million	\$102 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	8,184,299	751,432	726,166	745,074	738,953	728,231	735,731
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	1,415,661	124,974	117,726	128,402	134,315	173,964	164,185
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	17.3%	16.6%	16.2%	17.2%	18.2%	23.9%	22.3%
Social Security beneficiaries							
Women beneficiaries	737,494						
Retired worker beneficiaries	950,681	89,645	80,703	77,230	88,468	117,482	110,318
Disabled worker beneficiaries	212,945	14,020	15,346	27,592	21,255	27,455	26,281
Widow(er)s receiving benefits	97,874	8,452	9,149	9,177	9,513	11,382	11,024
Spouses receiving benefits	53,274	5,012	4,652	2,764	4,138	5,490	5,252
Children receiving benefits	100,887	7,845	7,876	11,639	10,941	12,155	11,310
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, "Virginia," <i>Congressional Statistics</i>, December 2014, 2015.</p> <p>SSA, <i>Annual Statistical Supplement, 2015</i>, "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>						

Importance of SAVE Benefits Act to Virginia's Congressional Districts (2/2)

	Congressional District				
	7	8	9	10	11
Estimated economic impact of SAVE Benefits Act*	\$81 million	\$46 million	\$124 million	\$54 million	\$49 million
Number of residents in state/ congressional district	745,462	760,961	723,948	765,146	763,195
Number of residents receiving Social Security benefits	134,546	73,370	197,606	88,987	77,586
Percent of residents receiving Social Security benefits	18.0%	9.6%	27.3%	11.6%	10.2%
Social Security beneficiaries					
Women beneficiaries					
Retired worker beneficiaries	97,291	54,932	110,997	66,093	57,522
Disabled worker beneficiaries	14,998	6,493	45,467	7,548	6,490
Widow(er)s receiving benefits	9,007	4,519	15,803	5,429	4,419
Spouses receiving benefits	4,878	3,647	8,471	4,612	4,358
Children receiving benefits	8,372	3,779	16,868	5,305	4,797
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, "Virginia," <i>Congressional Statistics, December 2014</i>, 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.