



SOCIAL SECURITY 2100

PRESS MENTIONS



House Democrats Unveil Social Security Expansion Bill with Unprecedented Support (Huffington Post)

In less than a decade, mainstream Democrats in Congress have gone from entertaining Social Security cuts to almost universally endorsing the program's expansion.

The bill already has the support of more than 200 House Democrats, including House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D), who relied on Social Security payments to help pay for college after his father died.

That puts the bill just shy of the 218-vote mark it would need to pass the House.

It helps Larson's case that his allies hail from ideologically diverse branches of the party. The co-chairs of the House's Expand Social Security Caucus that Larson started in September include Reps. Debbie Dingell (Mich.) and Raúl Grijalva (Ariz.), members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), a member of the business-friendly New Democrat Coalition; and Lamb, who does not belong to any ideologically driven bloc.

Larson holds out some hope that President Donald Trump, who promised to protect Social Security from cuts as a candidate, might strike a deal to close Social Security's funding gap with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). The Connecticut congressman compared the unlikely duo to President Ronald Reagan's partnership with House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) in 1983, the last time Congress passed legislation reforming Social Security.

"Nancy Pelosi may be exactly the person to drive this across the goal line with the person down on Pennsylvania Avenue," Larson said.

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[A new proposal to expand Social Security would make it much better for working Americans \(LA Times\)](#)

Feeling their progressive oats after a few years in the wilderness, House Democrats on Tuesday revived a proposal to increase and expand Social Security benefits while making the program more solvent for the foreseeable future.

Observing that “Congress has added no new protections nor voted increases in benefits for over half a century,” Nancy Altman, president of the advocacy group Social Security Works, called the bill’s introduction “a new and positive chapter” in the history of the program.

The American public responded to these threats to their retirement security, among other noxious GOP policies, by handing the Republicans an epic beat-down at the polls in November, giving Democrats the House majority.

As Larson said at the launch event for the bill Wednesday, years of economic stagnation for the middle class and the shifting of responsibility to provide for their own retirement has “heightened the urgency” for improving Social Security.

According to the office of the chief actuary of Social Security, the authority on all such calculations, Larson’s bill would ensure Social Security’s solvency for at least the next 75 years, but in practical terms into the almost limitless future. The program’s trust fund would reach a steady state of about \$2 trillion in present value by 2063 and stay there, providing a cushion of about two and a half times annual benefits.

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Democrats Push Plan to Increase Social Security Benefits and Solvency (New York Times)

After years of Republican-led debate over how to pare back Social Security's rising costs, Democrats are flipping the script with an ambitious plan to expand the New Deal-era social insurance program while making gradual changes to keep it solvent for the rest of the century.

The Social Security 2100 Act, which was introduced this past week in the House and the Senate, represents a sea change after decades dominated by concern that aging baby boomers would bankrupt the government as they begin drawing benefits from Social Security and other entitlement programs. It would be the first major expansion of Social Security since 1972 and the most significant change in the program since 1983, when Congress stepped in to avert a financial crisis by raising taxes and the eligibility age for Social Security.

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House Democrats roll out bill that would expand Social Security (MarketWatch)

More than 200 House Democrats on Wednesday reintroduced legislation that would expand Social Security benefits and gradually ramp up how much workers contribute to the social insurance program.

While the effort to expand Social Security could face a tough road in the Republican-controlled Senate, Larson emphasized that President Donald Trump promised during the 2016 presidential campaign that he wasn't going to make cuts to the program.

"Social Security has not had any significant adjustments made since 1983, when Tip O'Neill was speaker and Ronald Reagan was president. It's time for Congress and the president to come together again," the congressman said.

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A Huge Step Forward In The Quest To Expand Social Security (Forbes)

This morning, Representative John Larson (D-CT), Chair of the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, announced the introduction of the Social Security 2100 Act. He informed those in attendance and those around the country watching online that the bill has over 200 original cosponsors. That many original cosponsors is truly remarkable and underscores how important and wise the legislation is.

Moreover, the legislation would ensure that every penny of all these promised benefits will be paid in full and on time through the rest of the 21st century and beyond. That will provide perhaps the most important benefit of all: Peace of mind, security, that if disaster strikes in the form of death or disability Social Security will be there, month after month, providing the economic security we have earned and deserve.

The American people overwhelmingly support expanding, not cutting, Social Security because they understand its importance. A poll taken during the 2016 Presidential primaries revealed that supporters of the different candidates disagreed on nearly every issue – except for Social Security. 73% of Donald Trump supporters, 66% of Ted Cruz supporters, 71% of Hillary Clinton supporters and 72% of Bernie Sanders supporters all agreed that “Social Security benefits should not be reduced.” Moreover, in a poll taken in the lead-up to the 2018 election, 66 percent of voters said that they were more likely to back candidates who support “expanding and increasing Social Security benefits.”

Instead, Republicans must face a choice. Either they can continue to oppose the will of the people, and hand Democrats a prime talking point for the 2020 election. Or they can get on board and join with Democrats voting to expand Social Security. The days of ducking and obfuscating are over. As well they should be. Social Security is too important to our economic security. It is time Congress does what prior Congresses have done and expand it.