



# Talking Points on Trump's Move to Defund Social Security

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- **Trump's plan to defund Social Security is the latest salvo in Republicans' decades long goal to cut Social Security.**
  - They tried to privatize it under Bush.
  - They've tried to cut it through commissions.
- **Social Security is one of America's most important and successful programs! As Democrats, we know it's our job to protect it and strengthen it.**
  - Without it, many seniors would be living in poverty.
  - For nearly 1/3 of all elderly beneficiaries, Social Security benefits are 90 percent or more of their total income; 2/3 rely on Social Security for the majority of their income.
- **Republicans say they want to protect the program, but they won't work to ensure it is there for every American who has contributed.**
  - Now they are using the pandemic to speed up the process and deliver a death blow!
- **President Trump's payroll tax order – deferring Social Security's dedicated taxes, with the threat of a permanent cut down the line – is a terrible way to attempt to get relief to beleaguered Americans.**
  - Americans need help, but not this way. This is stealing from their retirement to make up for the administration's failure to contain the virus and save our economy.
  - This will benefit the wealthy the most and provides no help to the millions of unemployed Americans.
- **This harmful attack not only defunds Social Security and weakens it, but it also opens the door for permanent cuts – to both the payroll tax and to our earned Social Security benefits – down the road.**
  - President Trump has openly said he wants to eliminate Social Security's dedicated financing, and now he is taking advantage of the pandemic to take the first step.
- **Social Security is a widely popular program.** For 85 years, it's always been there for Americans.
  - Even Republicans (outside of DC) have said they're willing to pay more to strengthen the program in recent polling ([see attached document](#)).
- **200+ House Democrats have a solution to safeguard Social Security and make it sustainable for future generations with the Social Security 2100 Act.**
  - Our solution expands these critical benefits to help Americans retire in dignity and have peace of mind about their future because it also offers disability and survivor's benefits.
  - The Republican plan has been to do nothing. This would result in a 20 percent benefit cut and weaken the program.
  - The new plan to defund Social Security is their latest attempt to cut the program.