

February 11, 2025

The Honorable John R. Thune
Senate Majority Leader
Capitol Building
S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. “Chuck” Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
Capitol Building
S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention a Social Security solvency plan released today by experts at the Brookings Institution. It is a centrist and thoughtful plan that also makes several key improvements to the Social Security program. While we may not agree with every single provision, we firmly believe this is excellent place from which Congress should start negotiations on restoring solvency to Social Security and encourage others who may differ with elements of this plan to come forward with their own.

We strongly recommend that action take place in as soon as possible as not only would it restore solvency to the Social Security system, but it would also significantly reduce our overall budget deficit and put the United States on a sustainable fiscal path. Reducing the deficit would lower interest costs, increase our gross domestic product, and increase household incomes.

This plan is balanced in that there are both revenue increases and benefit reductions. And it also would deal with potential workforce shortages. The plan is modelled after the 1983 Social Security amendments which achieved 50 years of solvency. Just like those amendments, we would urge Congress to significantly improve the supplemental security income program and reduce elderly poverty, which has increased by over 50 percent in the last four years.

This plan deserves the serious attention of Congress. The American public wants solvency to be restored to Social Security so that the 17 percent reduction in benefits when the trust funds are depleted does not take place.

Thank you very much for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bill Gradison
U.S. Representative (R-OH), 1975-1993

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey
U.S. Representative (D-NY), 1975-1993

The Honorable Mike Andrews
U.S. Representative (D-TX), 1983-1995

The Honorable Charles Boustany
U.S. Representative (R-LA), 2005-2017

The Honorable Dan Coats
U.S. Representative (R-IN), 1981-1989
U.S. Senator (R-IN), 1989-1999 & 2011-2017

The Honorable Tom Daschle
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U.S. Senator (D-SD), 1987-2005

The Honorable Phil English
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The Honorable Marty Russo
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The Honorable Jim Slattery
U.S. Representative (D-KS), 1983-1995

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. Representative (R-MI), 1987-2023

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. Representative (D-CA), 1975-2015

Enclosure: "Fixing Social Security: Blueprint for a Bipartisan Solution" Summary

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Capitol Building
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
Capitol Building
H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

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February 11, 2025

The Honorable Jason T. Smith
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1129 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention a Social Security solvency plan released today by experts at the Brookings Institution. It is a centrist and thoughtful plan that also makes several key improvements to the Social Security program.

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February 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Wyden:

The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention a Social Security solvency plan released today by experts at the Brookings Institution. It is a centrist and thoughtful plan that also makes several key improvements to the Social Security program.

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