



Legislative News

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

GPO / WEP

From: "Ray, Amber"

Subject: **Re: WEP and GPO - At Least My 3rd Request**

Date: May 19, 2023 at 6:49:57 PM EDT

To: Tom Sutor <tomsutor@aol.com>

Cc: "Sanchez, Jacqueline"

Hi Tom,

Thanks for reaching out about this and sorry for the misunderstanding. I know that in February you received a message in response to your question on the work the Congresswoman has done on this issue generally.

The Congresswoman sits on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and as you know, these types of issues are considered in the Ways and Means Committee. Therefore, we don't have as much visibility into the ins and outs of what happened with this specific bill.

I do know that this bill would cost \$183 billion and shave a year off of social security solvency. So my guess is we couldn't find the offsets. But again, I am not certain.

Best,

Amber

Amber Ray, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (Delaware At-Large)



Edward Ratledge - 2nd
Director, Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research at
University of Delaware

My thoughts: This is the Ed Ratledge almost honest response. It's an easy budget item (expenditure) not to add to the budget. The constituency is small, most likely they will disappear in the near future. GPO and WEP doesn't; affect all Federal employees, never mind FERS retirees. What it boils down to, as was explained to Mark and I by Ed Ratledge is that, we will eventually die off and the issue will fade away.

~~~~~  
**At Will Federal Employees**    [NARFE May 16, 2023](#)

Last week, Sen. Rick Scott, R-FL, and Rep. Chip Roy, R-TX, introduced legislation to make all federal employment at-will in the Senate and House, respectively. The Public Service Reform Act, H.R. 3115/S. 1496, would allow every federal employee to be removed from service for "good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all." NARFE opposes this legislation and other attempts to upend the merit-based civil service system and the professional, nonpartisan civil service that it preserves.

~~~~~  
Social Security



Please be aware of the multitude of marketing correspondence you receive each and every day with respect to saving Social Security. Every day I receive at least two pieces of mail asking me to contribute funds to various efforts to protect and preserve Social Security. A simple piece of advice to all is to read the fine print. Sometimes you have to do some research to find the fine print, sometimes there is no fine print.

Summary: S.1295 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Introduced in Senate (04/21/2021)

Time to Rescue United States Trusts Act of 2021 or the TRUST Act of 2021

This bill establishes congressional committees to develop recommendations and legislation to improve critical social contract programs.

Each rescue committee may develop recommendations and legislation to improve the program for which it was established, including by (1) increasing the duration of positive balances of the federal trust fund established for the program, and (2) providing for the solvency of the federal trust fund established for the program during a 75-year period.

Congress must use specified expedited legislative procedures to consider legislation that is approved and submitted by the rescue committees.

My Comments: The Bill was Introduced, Read twice on 04-21-2021, then died. Assigned to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, never to be heard from again

~~~~~  
**S. 2251. The Save Benefits Act** is the only Bill in Congress that would issue a check to make up for the years when you received little or no Cost of Living Adjustment. Around 70 million Americans will receive a benefit increase under the SAVE Benefits Act. That’s more than one in five Americans in Delaware, approximately 204 thousand residents — 22% of the state’s population — would get an increase as a result of this bill. These include: 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. In Delaware about 12,000 veterans and their family members receive pension or compensation benefits.

In Delaware, the economic benefit would be about \$118 million and would lift about 5,000 people out of poverty. This modest pay raise for America’s seniors will make a big difference for those living on the edge of poverty. An extra \$581 would be enough for a senior to Buy almost three months of groceries. Cover the annual average total out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs by Medicare beneficiaries. It would help 76,000 women over the age of 65; and 27,000 disabled workers. It would also aid State and local government retirees who are not covered by Social Security.

**My comments:** Overall, I like what I heard. The problem is that I Couldn’t find a current record of the Bill on Congress.gov. This bill was introduced into the Senate in 2015, never to be heard from again.

~~~~~  
S. 393. The Social Security Expansion Act

Phasing out the earnings cap on contributions to Social Security, extending the life of the Social Security Trust Fund. Using the gains from the elimination of the earnings cap to increase average Social Security benefits by about \$2,400 per year. Adjusting the COLA formula to the CPI-E that reflects the cost of goods and services typically used by older Americans, immediately helping Social Security beneficiaries.

My comments: Overall, I really like what I heard. The Bill was read twice and assigned to the Committee on Finance on 02-13-2023. No record of any further action to date but it is relatively early in the process.

~~~~~  
**Pat Boone’s 60 Plus Organization** Of all the mailings I’ve received lately, this is by far and away the most politically motivated and egregious organization I’ve come across. Attached to their correspondence is a politically partisan skewed Survey which looks more like a political brochure for Trump’s 2024 Presidential bid, rather than a survey to gather information to help seniors financially. Claims that the Social Security Trust Fund is being raided for other governmental projects.

**My comments:** You can’t be serious. These people appear to be confusing the term unified budget with the various trust funds.

~~~~~  
H. R. 3206. the Senior Citizen Tax Elimination Act

My Comments: Pretty straight forward. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion of Social Security benefits in gross income. **My Comments:** Just introduced 05-11-2023, no further action.

~~~~~

### Some comments to look out for:

1. The Supreme Court has ruled that Social Security benefits can be taken away for any reason they wish, even though you paid for and we were promised them.
2. You must respond in 36 hours.
3. The political overtones of the correspondence.

~~~~~

Is the Social Security Trust Fund being raided?

The Social Security Trust Fund was created in 1939 as part of the Amendments enacted in that year. From its inception, the Trust Fund has always worked the same way. The Social Security Trust Fund has never been "put into the general fund of the government."

In prior years, Social Security taxes collected from workers added up to more than the amount of benefits paid to retirees. This buildup of surplus was intentional -- the government wanted to build a reserve that would cover the benefits of the baby boomers. This surplus has been invested in special U.S. government bonds that are legally obligated to pay the stated rate of interest, and then repay the principal when they mature, according to the terms of the bonds.

These special bonds are just part of the funding of the overall federal government, and the assets in the Social Security trust fund represent about 15 percent of the government's total debt. This process has taken place in full view of anybody who cared to learn about it. There have been no smoke-filled rooms where politicians sat around divvying up the earmarked money in the Social Security trust to finance their pet projects.

~~~~~

### **My Definition as of the Responsibility of Congress with Respect to Social Security**

Their job is not to cut Social Security or raise taxes on workers. Our job is to ensure that all seniors can live with the dignity they deserve.

**The following observation especily applies to Politics and Religion.**

**The problem with the world today is that the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence.**