



WHERE WE STAND – SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

In 1935, nearly half of elderly Americans lived in poverty, prompting Democratic President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to create the Social Security program. Republicans immediately opposed this legislation, and continue their efforts to abolish it, privatize it, “sunset” it, streamline it, or otherwise undermine it. Medicare, signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson, provided federal health insurance for people aged 65 and up. Together with Medicaid, which provides health coverage to those in need, these programs constitute much of the economic “safety net” on which Americans depend.

Social Security and Medicare Part A are funded through payroll deductions by employees and employers. Today, over 56 million Americans receive Social Security; over 63 million Americans are on Medicare. These two programs account for approximately a quarter of all federal government spending. Removing the income cap on payroll deductions could remedy Republican concerns about funding, but they prefer to terrorize seniors and their families with visions of a return to the dark days of destitution.



If you’re young and decades away from retirement, why worry about the demise of Social Security and Medicare? If Republicans break these covenants, you could find yourself caring for your elderly parents (and perhaps your in-laws) and paying for their medical expenses. Your dreams of buying a home, starting a business, sending your kids to college, or saving for your retirement would be derailed.

Democrats honor hard-working Americans who faithfully paid into “the system” year after year. We demand that our government keep its promises to them. We believe that senior citizens deserve to retire in dignity without fear and without burdening their families. We are committed to strengthening Social Security and Medicare for future generations. We remain perplexed that Republicans who purport to care about workers and seniors especially, seek at every opportunity to shred the very safety net upon which they and so many other Americans depend.

Flip this over to learn how YOU can get involved!

Here's what DEMOCRATS are doing to BOLSTER SOCIAL SECURITY and MEDICARE:

- In 1994, President Bill Clinton (D) signed the [Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act](#), establishing the Social Security Administration.
- In 2023, Senate Democrats introduced the [Social Security Expansion Act](#) to raise benefits, increase cost-of-living adjustments, and restore student benefits up to age 22 for children of deceased or disabled parents.
- By lifting the income tax cap and subjecting income over \$250,000 to Social Security payroll deductions, the Democratic plan would reduce the deficit and [extend Social Security's solvency](#) for another 75 years, protecting future benefits for retirees.
- In 2023, Governor Roy Cooper signed [legislation](#) making North Carolina the 40th state to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, overcoming previous GOP opposition.

Here's what MAGA REPUBLICANS are doing to UNDERMINE and WEAKEN the AMERICAN SAFETY NET:

- A 2016 Republican-sponsored [bill](#) proposed raising the age for claiming full Social Security benefits to 70. (The bill died in committee.)
- MAGA GOP Senator Ron Johnson, who sits on the powerful Senate Budget Committee, has [proposed ending](#) Medicare and Social Security as mandatory spending programs.
- In June 2023, the Republican Study Committee of the U.S. House, including our Congressman David Rouzer, released its 2024 [budget proposal](#). It would gradually raise the age for full Social Security benefits to 69 years old, subsidize so-called "premium support" insurance options – posing a challenge to traditional Medicare – and make harsh Medicaid cuts.



TAKE ACTION!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: brunswickdem.org

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS (North Carolina General Assembly):

- ✓ **Representative Frank Iler (R)** District 17
Email: frank.iler@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 301-1450
- ✓ **Representative Charles Miller (R)**, District 19
Email: Charles.Miller@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5830
- ✓ **Senator Bill Rabon (R)**, District 8 (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover)
Email: bill.Rabon@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5963

CONTACT YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS

- ✓ **Congressman David Rouzer (R)**, District 7
Email: rouzerforms.house.gov/contact/; Phone: (910) 253-6111
- ✓ **Senator Thom Tillis (R)**
Email: tillis.senate.gov/email-me; Phone: (202) 224-6342
- ✓ **Senator Ted Budd (R)**
Email: www.budd.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/; Phone: (202) 224-3154