

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Van Hollen, McDermott, Lee, Pocan, Lujan Grisham, Dingell, Lieu, and Norcross

Protect Social Security Benefits from Cuts

1. At the end of Title VIII, add the following:

“Sense of the House on Social Security

(a) The House finds that---

- (1) More than 59 million Americans currently receive earned Social Security benefits and, for most, Social Security's modest benefits provide the majority of their income;
- (2) Social Security benefits are becoming more critical to providing retirement income as fewer and fewer workers have access to traditional defined benefit retirement plans and many workers are unable to save adequate resources in retirement savings accounts;
- (3) More than half of disabled workers receiving Social Security insurance payments would have fallen into poverty if they had not earned Social Security to protect them when they became severely disabled or terminally ill;
- (4) the Social Security trust funds have a combined balance of \$2.8 trillion, built by contributions from American workers, enough to pay 100 percent of earned benefits until 2033;
- (5) Social Security's Disability Insurance (DI) and Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) systems are intertwined both in their benefit structure and in their revenues – DI recipients who reach retirement age receive OASI benefits and beneficiaries in each category have helped finance the other category even if they will never receive those benefits;
- (6) In the short-term, the projected shortfall in the DI trust fund should be addressed through changes that permit Social Security to use its existing overall resources to fund DI benefits.

(b) It is the sense of the House that Congress should enact legislation that uses Social Security's existing reserves to prevent cuts in Social Security's earned benefits, and

should make no changes to Social Security that involve reductions in earned Social Security benefits.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution asserts the Sense of the House that Congress should enact legislation that uses Social Security’s existing reserves to prevent cuts in Social Security’s earned benefits, and should make no changes to Social Security that involve reductions in earned Social Security benefits.