

The Social Security Administration Fairness Act

(H.R. 6251, S.3147)

This legislation was introduced last year by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) in the House and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in the Senate. A list of current cosponsors is below.

The legislation does several things, but the most important provision is one developed with the assistance and support of Council 220. It would remove funds for SSA from the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill and treat SSA just as the rest of the Social Security program is treated for budgetary purposes. The effect of this change would be that the agency would no longer be forced to compete with hundreds of other well deserving programs for its money. The only basis for determining annual funding would be the needs of the program and the availability of trust fund money.

Currently, under budget rules, each year the Appropriations Committees receive an allocation of funds for all of its programs. The Committee then divides that number and allocates specific amounts to each appropriations subcommittee. Each subcommittee determines its program spending decisions based on that allocation. Thus, increasing spending for one program will require offsetting spending reductions elsewhere within the subcommittees allocation. This is why SSA must compete with all other Labor-HHS programs for its funding and why it's so difficult for the agency to get what it needs.

The difference between SSA and all these other programs is that SSA derives its funding not from general tax revenues – as is true of the other programs – but from the Social Security Trust Funds. It is on this basis that we are urging Congress to enact this, or a similar version of the Social Security Fairness Act.

Cosponsors of Social Security Administration Fairness Act:

Senate: Bernie Sanders (VT) Sponsor

1. Cory Booker (NJ)
2. Elizabeth Warren (MA)
3. Jeff Merkley (OR)
4. Brian Schatz (HI)

House: John Larson (CT) Sponsor

1. Rep Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44] - 6/27/2018 *
2. Rep Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13] - 6/27/2018 *
3. Rep Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1] - 6/27/2018 *
4. Rep Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] - 6/27/2018 *
5. Rep Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12] - 6/27/2018 *
6. Rep Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13] - 6/27/2018 *
7. Rep Garamendi, John [D-CA-3] - 6/27/2018 *
8. Rep Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15] - 6/27/2018 *
9. Rep Green, Gene [D-TX-29] - 6/27/2018 *
10. Rep Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20] - 6/27/2018 *
11. Rep Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26] - 6/27/2018 *
12. Rep Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9] - 6/27/2018 *
13. Rep McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] - 6/27/2018 *
14. Rep McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9] - 6/27/2018 *
15. Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32] - 6/27/2018 *
16. Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC] - 6/27/2018 *
17. Rep Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10] - 6/27/2018 *
18. Rep Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1] - 6/27/2018 *
19. Rep Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8] - 6/27/2018 *
20. Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9] - 6/27/2018 *