

Contact:
Phone:
Home/Cell:
Email:
Date:

Social Security Employees Protest

On October 2011 at 12:00pm, the employees from the Social Security office located at _____, will walk an informational picket line to protest recent proposals Congress that would cut the Social Security Administration's operational budget. Congress has proposed reductions from \$ 473 to 882 million from the President's budget request in SSA funding for 2012.

FY 2011 current status, results from nearly \$1 billion below the amount the President requested. As a result of those cuts, SSA implemented an agency-wide hiring freeze with the exception of the hearings operations. This resulted in a loss of more than 3500 SSA and DDS (Disability Determination Service) State employees. More than 300 contact stations were closed, eliminating in-person services in many rural and remote sites. SSA indefinitely suspended mailing the Social Security statement, without advance notice to the public, eliminating an important link between young workers and the benefits they will receive when they retire.

Additionally, some members of Congress want across the board cuts from the FY11 level, which would be detrimental to SSA. SSA officials have stated that for every \$25 million cut below FY11 funding levels, every SSA and DDS employee would suffer a furlough day. Across the board cuts, such as the 5% discussed, would result in the imposition of 24 furlough days for every SSA and DDS employee.

Implementing cuts of \$882 from the FY12 proposed budget by the President, would result in an ongoing hiring freeze. SSA officials have projected that this would result in additional loss of 3000 SSA and DDS employees. Cutting SSA's operating budget by \$470 million, would eliminate the need for a hiring freeze and all SSA to fund its IT projects. Both scenarios will result in increased backlogs.

Security workers only adds insult to injury," said (name and title of spokesperson).

Cutting Social Security's budget at a time that record baby boomers are seeking benefits is another example of bad Washington politics. By law, the operations expenses for Social Security are paid by the Social Security Trust Fund.

Social Security does no account for the current deficit problem. In fact, Social Security neither increases nor reduces the federal deficit since the program is entirely self financed.

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(On Letterhead)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Date

Name
Phone
Cell
Email
Fax

Social Security Workers Angry About Budget Cuts

City, State – Thousands of Social Security workers are worried about how they will provide service to the public, if Congress passes their proposed budgets into law.

Social Security workers will protest the proposed budget cuts, which could lead to furloughs, hiring freezes and increased backlogs, on October 27, 2011 at 12:00 pm. at _____, in **city/state**.

“These cuts will only punish Americans who count on Social Security and Medicare by adding to backlogs and limiting assistance for our seniors, the disabled and families that have lost a parent or spouse. To effectively dock a month’s pay of the dedicated Social Security workers only adds insult to injury,” said (name and title of spokesperson).

Cutting Social Security’s budget at a time that record baby boomers are seeking benefits is another example of bad Washington politics. By law, the operations expenses for Social Security are paid by the Social Security Trust Fund.

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(on Letterhead)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Date

Name of Contact

Phone number

Cell Phone

Email

**FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST BUDGET CUTS
THAT THREATEN VITAL SERVICES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY**

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and Social Security workers are deeply worried that the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 federal budget for the Social Security Administration would have a devastating impact on the services provided to seniors, the disabled and the families who have lost a parent or spouse.

Congress has proposed reductions from \$ 473 to 882 million from the President's budget request in SSA Operational funding for 2012. Threats of across the board cuts still exist. If the budget cuts become law, the budget cuts would lead to possible furloughs, an ongoing hiring freeze, and additional loss of 3000 workers, and increased backlogs.

Security workers only adds insult to injury," said (name and title of spokesperson).

Cutting Social Security's budget at a time that record baby boomers are seeking benefits is another example of bad Washington politics. By law, the operations expenses for Social Security are paid by the Social Security Trust Fund.

Social Security does no account for the current deficit problem. In fact, Social Security neither increases nor reduces the federal deficit since the program is entirely self- financed.

In protest of these proposed cuts, thousands of Social Security workers will be protesting across the country to stop the assault on SSA's ability to serve the American public. .

WHAT: An information picket at the _____ Social Security office.

WHEN: _____ (time) _____, Thursday, April 6, 2011

WHERE: _____, (location- street address, city/state)

WHO: AFGE Local _____ from Social Security will be participating in the protest with SSA workers, and other community activists who have been invited to voice their concerns about service delivery at Social Security.

AFGE represents 60,000 Social Security workers and over 600,000 employees in the federal government. AFGE is the largest federal Union for government employees in the United States, as well as the District of Columbia.

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