



December 9, 2016

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman, Social Security Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson,

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I write today in support of H.R. 6489, the *Social Security Reform Act of 2016*. AMAC has long-advocated for large, structural reforms to Social Security to guarantee its survival for generations to come. We applaud Chairman Johnson for taking hold of the “third rail” to protect current retirees from the uncertain future of Social Security and restoring the trust of future retirees that Social Security will be around for their retirement.

One of AMAC's founding goals has been to make Social Security solvent without raising taxes, without cutting benefits, and ensuring low-income Americans receive more money. The *Social Security Reform Act* accomplishes these goals and so much more. While this letter could be several pages long discussing each of the 15 provisions of this bill, I would like to highlight some of the provisions most important to AMAC and our nationwide constituency.

First, and most importantly, H.R. 6489 achieves Social Security solvency for the next 75 years without raising taxes. AMAC has staunchly opposed any tax increase, including raising the Maximum Taxable Earnings, to make Social Security solvent. Such an increase would disproportionately affect small business owners and take money out of the pockets of hard working Americans—both of which are unacceptable. We are pleased to see the *Social Security Reform Act* does not raise taxes, and in fact, actually grants a small tax cut. By eliminating the federal income tax on benefits that go to Social Security, millions of cash-strapped seniors will find more money in their pockets over the coming years than they did prior to this bill's enactment.

Second, AMAC is pleased to see the age setback for the Normal Retirement Age (NRA) done in a reasonable and predictable way that won't harm those closest to retirement. Americans are living longer, and the age for claiming a full Social Security benefit needs to reflect our demographic changes. As stated in the bill, for those attaining age 62 in 2022, the NRA will increase by 3 months per year starting for those attaining age 62 in 2023 until it reaches 69 for those attaining age 62 in 2030. We appreciate Chairman Johnson's reasonable calculation for claiming a full benefit, while at the same time ensuring access to early retirement at 62 for those Americans who need access to their retirement income before they reach full retirement age.

Finally, AMAC is pleased to see H.R. 6489 helps low-income Americans by increasing benefits for lower-income earners and increasing the minimum benefit for those who earned less over the course of their careers. Too often, low-income Americans are forced to rely solely on Social Security as their only source of retirement income. And, unfortunately, sometimes the benefit these Americans draw from Social Security is insufficient to meet their most basic needs. Chairman Johnson's bill promises to give lower earning Americans more money in an effort to restore these Americans' trust in the retirement safety net they were promised.

As an organization committed to representing the interests of mature Americans and seniors, AMAC is strongly supportive of the *Social Security Reform Act of 2016*. We have been pleased to work with Chairman Johnson and his knowledgeable staff to find a smart, sensible, and modern solution to the problems facing Social Security. We applaud Chairman Johnson and his staff for your attentiveness and hard work to help senior citizens in difficult times. This bill will provide certainty for senior citizens across income brackets and rebuild their trust in the government. AMAC is proud to support H.R. 6489 and encourages Congress to consider this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC

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