

Politicians and Leaders Across Partisan Lines Oppose Cutting Social Security Benefits to Reduce the Deficit

President Obama, Deficit Speech at George Washington University, April 13, 2011

<http://www.npr.org/2011/04/13/135383045/president-obamas-speech-on-deficit-cutting>

While Social Security is not the cause of our deficit, it faces real long-term challenges in a country that is growing older. As I said in the State of the Union, both parties should work together now to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

Jack Lew, OMB Director, "Opposing view: Social Security isn't the problem," *USA Today*, February 22, 2011

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2011-02-22-editorial22_ST1_N.htm#

Specifically, looking to the next two decades, Social Security does not cause our deficits. Social Security benefits are entirely self-financing. They are paid for with payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers throughout their careers. These taxes are placed in a trust fund dedicated to paying benefits owed to current and future beneficiaries ... The problem is not Social Security; the problem is the mismatch between outlays and revenues in the rest of the budget. Closing that gap and paying down our debt will take tough choices, and the president's budget makes them. Strengthening Social Security is an important, but parallel, issue that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible. But let's not confuse it as either the cause of or a solution to our short-term fiscal problems.

Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) on Political Capital with Al Hunt, *Bloomberg News*, February 18,

2011 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1dMOIUuxPw>

You know, the [Fiscal] Commission—and I think there's a lot of misunderstanding about this—the [Fiscal] Commission did not use any savings from Social Security for the deficit. The savings from Social Security were used solely to extend the solvency of Social Security for 75 years. So, do I think Social Security needs to be part of a deficit reduction package? No, I don't. Social Security is not contributing to the deficit. Our problem is in other entitlement accounts, it's in other domestic spending, including defense, and it's on the revenue side.

Fiscal Commission Co-Chairs Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, *The Moment of Truth*, December 1, 2010

http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/TheMomentofTruth12_1_2010.pdf

Social Security Reforms to Ensure Long-Term Solvency and Reduce Poverty: Ensure sustainable solvency for the next 75 years while reducing poverty among seniors. Reform Social Security for its own sake, and not for deficit reduction.

Barry Rand, CEO of AARP, "AARP Has Not Changed Its Position on Social Security," June 17, 2011

<http://www.aarp.org/about-aarp/press-center/info-06-2011/aarp-has-not-changed-its-position-on-social-security.html>

First, we are currently fighting some proposals in Washington to cut Social Security to reduce a deficit it did not cause. Social Security should not be used as a piggy bank to solve the nation's deficit. Any changes to this lifeline program should happen in a separate, broader discussion and make retirement more secure for future generations, not less.