

# **STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY** **...don't cut it**

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## **Gov. Perry's Extreme Attacks on Social Security Continue at Republican Debate**

**(Washington, D.C.)**— During last night's Republican debate, Rick Perry called Social Security a "monstrous lie" and a "Ponzi scheme," he also refuses to deny that his goal is to end Social Security. Mr. Perry should realize that the only thing he is going to end with a position like that is his own political career.

**"The future of Social Security is too important to the well-being of future generations of workers to be shaped by incorrect comparisons and misleading arguments by politicians, like Governor Perry, who seek to end Social Security," said Eric Kingson, co-chair of the Strengthen Social Security Campaign. "Social Security is America's most popular government program, which makes sense because it is more than a government program; it is the American people's program. They paid into it their entire working lives and they own it and they value the protections it provides to themselves, their families and their neighbors. This is why poll after poll shows that Republican, Democrats and Tea Partiers are united in telling everyone in DC hands off Social Security."**

**"Governor Rick Perry's slanderous claim that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme – an intentional criminal fraud -- is outrageous," said Nancy Altman, co-director of the Social Security Works. "Anyone accusing thirteen U.S. presidents and 38 Congresses of criminally conspiring to defraud the American people is unfit to lead the nation. Social Security provides working Americans and their families with vital economic protection when wages are lost as the result of disability, death, or old age. Governor Perry obviously doesn't understand the first thing about current-funded pension plans, of which Social Security is a hugely successful example. Even more troubling, he clearly has no respect for the American people who understand Social Security a lot better than he does, and who value it highly."**

As detailed in this [fact sheet](#), Perry's statements about Social Security have been consistently false or misleading, and completely out of touch with the American people. At best, they reveal a dangerous ignorance about Social Security, a program that has provided essential economic security to America's working families for the past 76 years. At worst, they telegraph the candidate's willingness to disregard and distort the facts, and his deep desire to end Social Security.