



Commemorating 40 Years
Of Disability Advocacy
1973-2013

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**Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force
Statement on the 2013 Social Security Trustees Report
May 31, 2013**

Washington, DC – Today, the Social Security Trustees released their annual report on the current and projected financial status of the Social Security trust funds. The 2013 Trustees Report highlights that our Social Security system continues to operate well for the American people. Our Social Security system's financial outlook remains stable, and can continue to pay all scheduled old age, survivors, and disability benefits until 2033. With modest increases in revenue, Social Security will be able to pay full benefits throughout the century and beyond.

The Trustees Report finds that Social Security is fully solvent until 2033, but faces a moderate long-term shortfall. In 2012, Social Security took in roughly \$54 billion more than it paid out. Its reserves were \$2.73 trillion in 2012, and are projected to grow to \$2.9 trillion by the end of 2021. If Congress does not act before 2033, the reserves would be drawn down, and revenue coming into the Trust Funds would cover about 77 percent of scheduled benefits. The 2013 Report also continues to project that the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund by itself can continue to pay all scheduled benefits until 2016. If Congress takes no action before 2016, the Trustees project that the DI trust fund will be able to pay about 80 percent of scheduled benefits. The long-term growth in SSDI has been predicted since the mid-1990s, and is largely due to demographics—the U.S. population and the number of workers insured for DI have grown; on average, Americans are living longer but with more disability; and the baby boomers are now in their high disability years.

Congress has traditionally reallocated payroll tax revenues between the OASI and DI trust funds to address projected shortfalls, and action is once again needed to address the projected 2016 shortfall in the DI trust fund. The Social Security Actuary has testified that a modest reallocation of the total OASDI payroll tax enacted prior to 2016 would allow both programs to pay full scheduled benefits through 2033 — their current combined exhaustion date. After that, modest increases in revenue can ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security system for generations to come.

The modest but vital assistance that Social Security provides makes it possible for seniors and people with severe disabilities to live independently, keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, and pay for needed, often life-sustaining medications and other basic expenses. The alternatives are often unthinkable.

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Too often, people talk about making changes to our Social Security system without considering the impact such changes would have on real people. The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force supports ensuring the long-term solvency of the overall Social Security system, while preserving and strengthening the vital role that Social Security plays in supporting seniors and people with disabilities.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion in all aspects of society of the 57 million children and adults with disabilities living across the United States. The CCD Social Security Task Force focuses on disability policy issues in the Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

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