



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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**Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force
Statement on the 2016 Social Security Trustees Report
June 22, 2016**

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 2016 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 2034. With modest increases in revenue, Social Security will be able to pay full benefits throughout the century and beyond.

The 2016 Trustees Report finds that Social Security is fully solvent until 2034, but faces a moderate long-term shortfall. In 2015, Social Security took in roughly \$23 billion more in total income, including interest, than it paid out. Its reserves were \$2.8 trillion at the end of 2015. If Congress does not act before 2034, the reserves would be drawn down, and revenue coming into the Trust Funds would cover about 79 percent of scheduled benefits. The Trustees Report also projects that, following Congressional action in late 2015, the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund by itself can pay all scheduled benefits until 2023. If Congress takes no action before 2023, the Trustees project that the DI trust fund will be able to pay about 89 percent of scheduled benefits.

The modest but vital insurance payments that Social Security provides make it possible for millions of seniors and people with 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, if benefits were cut or eliminated, are often unthinkable.

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. CCD opposes benefit cuts and supports thoughtful approaches to ensuring Social Security's long-term solvency, while preserving the vital role that Social Security plays in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. The CCD Social Security Task Force also urges Congress to put Social Security's two Trust Funds on an even financial path, so that Congress can consider and ensure the long-term solvency of both trust funds together.

Additionally, Congress should provide adequate funding to ensure strong customer service at the Social Security Administration. This includes addressing the historic backlog and wait times that Americans

applying for Social Security disability benefits currently face. Today, more than 1.1 million people are waiting an average of over 550 days for a hearing on their application for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits. These shocking and historic delays leave many destitute, with little to no income or access to essential health care under Medicare. Many lose their homes, and some die while awaiting a hearing. These delays are the direct result of chronic underfunding of Social Security's administrative budget, which is less than a penny of every dollar collected and spent on benefits.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is a coalition of over 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 approximately 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 Social Security Act Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

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