

# Strengthen and Expand Social Security!

More than **28 percent** of Garrett County residents derive all or most of their income from Social Security. This includes adults, children and the disabled.

In the United States:

- Social Security is the major source of income for most of the elderly.
- Disabled workers and their dependents account for 13% of total benefits paid.
- Among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 48% of married couples and 69% of unmarried persons receive 50% or more of their income from Social Security.
- Among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 21% of married couples and about 44% of unmarried persons rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income.

*Source: Social Security Administration*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Social Security is an extremely efficient program, with administrative costs of only 0.7% of total expenditures. That's less than a penny for every Social Security dollar collected. Social Security's benefits are extremely *low* by international standards, ranking near the bottom when measured against the old-age benefits provided by other developed countries. The average yearly benefit for individuals in the U.S. is a little over \$15,000.

Social Security is not going broke any time soon. And, with some small changes, the program can be secured for future retirees, survivors and disabled recipients.

*Source: Social Security Works! by Nancy Altman and Eric R. Kingson*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to *expand* and *secure* Social Security?

**THAT'S RIGHT...** The Social Security 2100 Act, introduced by Rep. John B. Larson (D-CT) would **improve** benefits by 2% and protect against inflation by improving the cost-of-living provision. And it would **increase** benefits for low- income workers. **That's very important to residents of Garrett County where wages severely lag behind Maryland's average.** The Social Security 2100 Act *strengthens* the Social Security Trust Fund by lifting the cap on payroll taxes to wages above \$400,000, affecting only the top 0.4% of wage earners. The legislation would gradually phase in an increase in the contribution rate beginning in 2020, so that by 2043 workers and employers would pay 7.4% instead of 6.2%. For the average worker this means paying only an additional 50 cents per week every year to keep the system solvent.

## Your Voice Matters! Support Social Security 2100 now!

U.S. Rep. David Trone (D-MD. 6<sup>th</sup> District) is one of the sponsors of the Social Security 2100 Act. As with any initiative, the more support our congressman can show for this bill, the better chance he has of convincing other legislators in either political party to get behind it.

Call Congressman Trone's office at 202-225-2721 or email at <https://trone.house.gov/contact/email-me> to thank him for co-sponsoring Social Security 2100!

## Garrett County Democratic Club

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