

Legislative Tracker

Social Security

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
Stable Benefits and Housing Assistance Act	H.R. 6028	Rep. Jimmy Gomez	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Will ensure that individuals participating in relocation assistance programs will not be at risk of losing their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits solely because of the relocation assistance they receive.
Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019	H.R. 5392	Rep. Gwen Moore	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would provide for a number of Social Security benefit improvements, including: increasing the special minimum benefit paid to low-wage workers; giving credit towards the minimum benefit for parents who take time off of work to raise a child; boosting benefits for seniors who have been on the Social Security rolls for a long time; and extending payment of Social Security student benefits up to age 26 for the children of workers who retire, die or become disabled when their child is enrolled full-time in college or vocational training. The bill pays for these improvements by eliminating the cap on Social Security payroll taxes and by increasing the payroll tax rate by one-tenth of one percent a year for six years.

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Know Your Social Security Act		Rep. John Larson Rep. Vern Buchanan	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would require the Social Security Administration to resume annual mailing of Social Security statements to all of the estimated 150 million American workers who are eligible to receive them.
Stop the Wait Act	S. 2496 H.R. 4386	Sen. Robert Casey Rep. Lloyd Doggett	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would eliminate two provisions that delay the start of both Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare benefits for disabled individuals, making the commencement of benefits contemporaneous with the decision that a person is disabled.
Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act	H.R. 4540	Rep. Richard Neal	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would improve the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP, by introducing a new proportional formula for the purpose of calculating the amount of the offset and provide meaningful WEP relief to current retirees. H.R. 4540 also includes a benefit guarantee so that no current or future retirees can be worse off as a result of the bill.
Social Security Fairness Act of 2019	S. 521 H.R. 141	Sen. Sherrod Brown Rep. Rodney Davis	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provisions of the Social Security Act which unfairly prevent millions of Americans including teachers, firefighters, and police officers, from receiving the Social Security benefits that they have earned.

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<p>Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act</p>	<p>H.R. 2302 S. 1132</p>	<p>Sen. Mazie K. Hirono Rep. Ted Deusch</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would address the lack of adequate cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security beneficiaries by requiring the use of the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers while also strengthening the financial condition of the Social Security program by lifting the cap on Social Security payroll taxes.</p>
<p>Social Security Disability Protection Act</p>	<p>S. 3741</p>	<p>Sen. Bob Casey Rep. Brendan F. Boyle</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would stop the Social Security Administration (SSA) from reinstating the “reconsideration” step of the disability adjudication process in the ten states where that step is not used. If implemented in these states, reconsideration would delay final adjudication of disability applications for an estimated 140,000 in the first year. This decision will extend the wait time for decisions for many applicants from an average of approximately 500 days to about 600 days, a 20 percent increase over what is already an unconscionably long period of time. The bill would also develop a detailed plan for improving the reconsideration step nationwide.</p>
<p>Maintain Access to Vital Social Security Services Act of 2019</p>		<p>Sen. Tammy Baldwin Rep. Gwen Moore</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would establish procedures for the Social Security Administration (SSA) to follow when it proposes to close or consolidate any of the agency’s local field offices, including: a temporary moratorium on all office closures; require that SSA’s annual budgets disclose any plans to close offices or reduce services that field offices provide; and make SSA develop a plan to ensure that field offices are receiving sufficient resources to maintain adequate service delivery.</p>

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<p>Social Security Administration Fairness Act</p>		<p>Sen. Bernard Sanders</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would guarantee regular and consistent funding for the administrative budget of the Social Security Administration and would eliminate the waiting period disabled Americans must serve before their monthly benefits and health care coverage can begin.</p>
<p>Social Security Administration (SSA) Accountability Act of 2018</p>		<p>Rep. Brian Higgins</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would establish important new tools and safeguards which will strengthen substantially the ability of the Congress to exercise its oversight obligations regarding the administration of Social Security programs, including establishing procedures for the Social Security Administration to follow when it proposes to close or consolidate any of the agency’s local field offices, including a temporary moratorium on all office closures until SSA has submitted a report to the Congress regarding its processes for office closures and consolidations.</p>
<p>Elder Poverty Relief Act</p>		<p>Sen. Ron Wyden</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> The “Elder Poverty Relief Act” will help alleviate poverty among the elderly and the disabled by granting beneficiaries who have participated in Social Security for several years a monthly increase in their benefit equal to about \$85.</p>

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Social Security 2100 Act	H.R. 860	Rep. John Larson	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would strengthen Social Security’s financing and provide additional funding to improve benefits by extending and then eliminating the cap on payroll taxes while implementing a small, gradual increase in workers’ and employers’ contributions to Social Security. To improve benefits, adds an across-the-board increase of about 2 percent, adopts the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E), provides tax relief through an increase in the threshold on taxation of Social Security benefits and expands the special minimum benefit.</p>
Supplemental Social Security Income Restoration Act of 2017		Rep. Raul Grijalva	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would strengthen and modernize the Supplemental Security Income program, which is vitally important for the 8.3 million disabled or elderly individuals who depend on it for basic income support.</p>
Social Security for Future Generations Act of 2017		Rep. Al Lawson	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would strengthen Social Security’s financial foundation by increasing revenue dedicated to support the program, and fund program improvements for beneficiaries.</p>

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<p>Fair COLA for Seniors Act</p>	<p>H.R. 1553</p>	<p>Rep. John Garamendi</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u></p> <p>Would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly for the purpose of determining cost-of-living adjustments for a broad array of Federal retirement programs, including Social Security. Using the CPI-E will ensure that benefits for retirees are not diminished by rising costs in the goods and services that seniors disproportionately consume.</p>
<p>Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act</p>		<p>Sen. Ron Wyden</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u></p> <p>Would repeal a decades-old change in law that allowed earned benefits to be garnished by the federal government to collect federal debts.</p>
<p>Social Security Expansion Act</p>	<p>S. 478 H.R. 1170</p>	<p>Sen. Bernie Sanders Rep. Peter DeFazio</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u></p> <p>Would extend the solvency of Social Security through 2071, boost benefits about \$108/month for most beneficiaries, adopt the CPI-E to determine cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), and increase the special minimum benefit.</p>



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Resolution adopting rules for the 115th Congress House Resolution 5		Rep. Kevin McCarthy	<p><u>NCPSSM opposes this legislation.</u></p> <p>This resolution creates a point of order against legislation to reallocate funds from the Social Security Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund to the Disability Insurance Trust Fund unless it is accompanied by benefit cuts or tax increases that improve the solvency of the combined trust funds, and requires each standing committee to include in their oversight plans recommendations for moving programs from mandatory to discretionary funding, which would begin the process of dismantling the guaranteed funding mechanisms for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and exposing these programs to the uncertainties of the annual appropriations process.</p>
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Medicare

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act	H.R. 3	Speaker Nancy Pelosi Rep. Frank Pallone	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would significantly reduce drug costs for seniors by allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug costs directly with manufacturers, penalize noncompliant manufacturers to ensure lower prices, and require companies to rebate to the government price increases above the rate of inflation. H.R. 3 would also improve Medicare benefits by providing partial coverage for hearing, dental and vision services, put a \$2,000 out-of-pocket spending cap on Part D and increase the number of low-income seniors eligible for assistance with drug costs.
Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit Act of 2019		Rep. Lloyd Doggett	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would create routine hearing, vision and dental benefits under Medicare.
Medigap Consumer Protection Act		Rep. Lloyd Doggett	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would improve access to Medigap for seniors and disabled individuals in the traditional Medicare program who rely on supplemental Medigap insurance coverage to pay for Medicare's high out-of-pocket costs.

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Medicare Part B Penalties Fairness Act		Rep. Katie Hill	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would help ease the burden for people who unwittingly make Medicare Part B enrollment mistakes by limiting the penalty for late enrollment. It would also allow those with COBRA coverage to avoid the Part B late enrollment penalty.
Medicare Dental Benefit Act	S.22	Sen. Ben Cardin	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would provide coverage for dental services under the Medicare Part B program.
The Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act	H.R. 1046	Rep. Lloyd Doggett	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would allow the Secretary of Health & Human Services to directly negotiate prices for prescription drugs and issue a competitive license allowing other manufacturers to produce the drug for Medicare in the event negotiations fail.
Helping Seniors Afford Medicare Act of 2018		Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would cap out-of-pocket expenses for deductibles and copayments for traditional Medicare at \$5,500 per year and make it easier for low-income seniors to qualify for financial assistance in paying their out-of-pocket costs.

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<p>Medicare and Medicaid Protection Act</p>		<p>Sen. Mazie Hirono</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would protect Medicare and Medicaid from benefit cuts by making it difficult in the Senate to increase the Medicare eligibility age, privatize Medicare, reduce Medicaid funding through block grants or per capita caps, or eliminate the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion through budget reconciliation legislation.</p>
<p>Lower Out-of-Pocket Costs for Seniors Act</p>		<p>Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. Rep. Richard Neal</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would lower prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries under Medicare Part D by making permanent a provision in the Affordable Care Act that limits the growth of the annual out-of-pocket spending threshold. We estimate that unless Congress acts to maintain the current calculation of the out-of-pocket threshold it will increase from \$5,100 in 2019 to \$6,350 in 2020, meaning some Medicare beneficiaries would have much higher out-of-pocket spending for prescription drugs.</p>
<p>The PRICED Act</p>		<p>Rep. Jan Schakowsky</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would save money for Medicare and lower seniors’ out-of-pocket costs by reducing exclusivity for biologics in the United States from twelve years to seven. Reducing the period that a brand manufacturer could exclusively market a drug in the United States would bring competition to the marketplace sooner, driving down the cost of these often prohibitively expensive therapies.</p>

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<p>Fair Drug Pricing Act</p>		<p>Rep. Jan Schakowsky</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would allow the Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS) to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies when drugs lack sufficient competition and allow the Secretary to set a drug's price when HHS and drug manufacturers fail to agree on one.</p>
<p>Know the Lowest Price Act <i>(PASSED)</i></p>		<p>Sen. Debbie Stabenow</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would prohibit health plans and pharmacy benefits managers from inserting gag clauses into their contracts with pharmacists that prohibit them from disclosing to consumers when it costs less to pay out-of-pocket for a drug than it would to use their insurance coverage.</p>
<p>Audiology Patient Choice Act of 2018</p>		<p>Sen. Elizabeth Warren Sen. Rand Paul</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would expand access to hearing health care services for Medicare beneficiaries by allowing audiologists to receive Medicare reimbursement for auditory rehabilitation services.</p>
<p>Medicare Beneficiary Opioid Addiction Treatment Act</p>		<p>Sen. Bob Casey Sen. Rob Portman</p>	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would provide for coverage of methadone under Medicare Part B. Currently, Medicare only covers methadone under Part D to be used for pain management. By adding coverage of methadone under Part B, it would be provided by a physician and could be used as a course of addiction treatment to help hundreds of thousands of Medicare beneficiaries.</p>

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Medicare Hearing Aid Coverage Act	H.R. 1518	Rep. Debbie Dingell	NCPSSM supports this legislation. The bill would require Medicare to cover hearing examinations and hearing aids.
Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017		Sen. Elizabeth Warren Rep. Joseph Kennedy III	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would encourage the development of more affordable over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aid devices by requiring that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provide for the regulation of OTC hearing aids within three years of enactment of the bill.
Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2017		Sen. Sherrod Brown Rep. Joe Courtney	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would count a period of receiving outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.
Seniors Have Eyes, Ears and Teeth Act	H. R. 576	Rep. Roybal-Allard	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would help millions of Medicare beneficiaries who need vision, hearing and dental care, which is not covered by Medicare.
Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act		Sen. Bernie Sanders Rep. Elijah Cummings	NCPSSM supports this legislation. Would permit wholesalers, licensed pharmacists and individuals to import drugs from Canada, and authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services in two years to allow importation from other advanced countries.



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Health Care and Aging Legislation

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
American Health Care Act of 2017			<p>NCPSSM opposes this legislation.</p> <p>Repeals the Affordable Care Act, which would weaken Medicare’s solvency leaving it vulnerable to benefit cuts and privatization, threaten access to Medicaid’s long-term care benefits, and require seniors to pay more for less health care coverage.</p>

Budget Legislation

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
CARES Act	S. 3548 H.R. 748	Sen. Mitch McConnell Rep. Joe Courtney	<p>NCPSSM opposed the payroll tax portions of this legislation but supported provisions that would benefit seniors and disabled.</p> <p>To provide emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.</p>



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Civil Rights Legislation

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
Paycheck Fairness Act	S.270 H.R.7	Sen. Patty Murray Rep. Rosa DeLauro	<u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u> Would prevent wage discrimination and help women and their families secure the paychecks they have earned by putting an end to pay secrecy, strengthening workers' ability to challenge discrimination, and bringing equal pay law into line with other civil rights laws. This would strengthen retirement security for women as they generally work for lower wages due to persistent gender wage discrimination, leading to a smaller Social Security benefit.



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Alzheimer's Legislation

Topic	Title/Bill Numbers	Sponsors	Summary
Concentrating on High-Value Alzheimer's Needs to Get to an End (CHANGE) Act of 2018		Sen. Shelley Moore Capito Sen. Roger Wicker Sen. Debbie Stabenow Sen. Robert Menendez	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u></p> <p>Would help the growing number of Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease and their families and caregivers by encouraging early assessment, diagnosis, and testing, facilitating participation in clinical trials, and creating a study to determine regulatory and legislative changes that would accelerate research aimed at preventing, treating and curing Alzheimer's disease.</p>
Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act		Sen. Susan Collins Sen. Shelley Moore Capito Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto Sen. Tim Kaine	<p><u>NCPSSM supports this legislation.</u></p> <p>Would create a public health infrastructure to implement effective interventions to combat Alzheimer's disease and related dementias including prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and treatment.</p>