



## **Hands off the payroll tax**

The latest news reports state that Donald Trump and Mike Pence want a complete reduction of the payroll tax to stimulate the economy. But what does the payroll tax fund? The payroll tax funds Social Security and Medicare. So, cutting the payroll tax is a bad idea for everyone because it would undermine these great programs so many depend on.

We should want to keep Social Security stable and maintain the program's integrity as it was intended and structured by President Franklin Roosevelt. Senior citizens especially need Social Security and Medicare. The lower 20% of senior citizens whose annual income is solely from Social Security get only \$13,500 on average. Cutting the payroll tax means putting more senior citizens in poverty. Nobody in public office should allow that to happen.

The politicians who advocate cutting the payroll tax say it will help the economy, but it won't in the long run. What will stimulate the economy is already being done thanks to the CARES Act — mail checks from the Treasury directly to citizens. This is putting more dollars into consumers' pockets than would any payroll tax-cut scheme.

Look up the phone numbers and email addresses to your congressional representative, your two U.S. senators and even the White House. Contact them and tell them, "Hands off the payroll tax."

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