



International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

IAM Supports Legislation to Protect, Secure, and Improve Social Security Benefits

It is the IAM's firm belief that after a lifetime of hard work and dedication, working people should be able to retire with dignity and economic security. Preferably, a worker's retirement income stream should be derived from three sources - social security, a defined benefit pension, and the retiree's personal savings. Unfortunately, there are many powerful interests, from profit-obsessed corporate decision makers to unfeeling conservative ideologues, who aim to erode our path to a secure retirement. **The Machinists Union continues to fight on every battlefield where the retirement security of our members is in jeopardy.**

For decades, Social Security has delivered guaranteed, lifetime benefits without interruption to generations of Americans. These beneficiaries earned their Social Security by contributing into the system with every paycheck. Nearly sixty-five million older Americans, people with disabilities and family members of deceased workers – one out of every five households – relies on Social Security. Additionally, nearly 182 million active workers contribute to Social Security with every paycheck through payroll taxes. The Machinists Union firmly believes full Social Security benefits must continue to be paid to all current beneficiaries and to all active contributing workers once it is their turn to enjoy retirement. However, in the 118th Congress a growing number of legislators are promoting ideas that put these earned benefits at risk.

The Machinists Union strongly believes that to continue to provide retirement security for current and future generations, Congress must strengthen and expand Social Security by increasing benefits, rather than reducing them. The Machinists Union categorically opposes any attempts to reduce Social Security benefits, and we oppose any policy prescriptions that will lead to the weakening of the Social Security system. This includes policy proposals to raise the full retirement age, partial or full privatize the program, or the creation of “special commissions” or “expert panels” to make decisions that adversely affect Social Security and its beneficiaries.

In order to continue to provide retirement security for current and future generations, it is time to strengthen and expand Social Security and increase benefits. **The Machinists Union strongly supports federal legislation that increases Social Security benefits, extends the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund, and repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).**