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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

XAVIER BECERRA
34TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**Prevent Social Security Benefit Cuts
-- Cosponsor the *One Social Security Act* --**

Dear Colleague:

Social Security is the heart of economic security for America's workers. One single contribution, made with each paycheck, allows Americans to earn one simple package of birth-to-death protection. Over the years, these contributions from working Americans have built up the \$2.8 trillion surplus Social Security has today.

So why are we hearing that in 2016, 11 million Americans will lose 19 percent of the Social Security benefits that they earned and rely on to live?

A 1956 law requires that our one Social Security contribution be distributed into two different trust funds – one for retirement and survivor benefits, and one for disability insurance benefits. As a result, Congress must periodically adjust the balance between the two trust funds so that all Americans can receive the benefits they earned, paid for by the contributions they made.

On a number of occasions, Congress has had to fine-tune the law to make sure the three pillars of Social Security could all pay Americans the benefits they worked for and earned. For example, in 1980 and in 1983, the allocation of FICA taxes was rebalanced in favor of the retirement and survivors insurance fund, and most recently, Congress in 1994 voted unanimously to rebalance so we could continue paying full earned Social Security benefits to those who qualified on the basis of a disability. We can't do that this time – not because there's not enough money being contributed, but because of a change in the House's rules of operation.

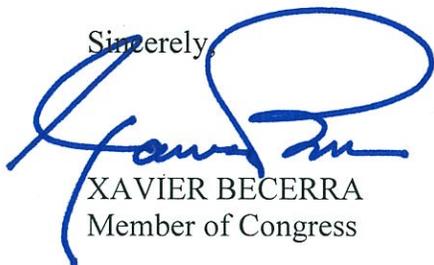
Rather than shove Social Security into a political debate or engage in more bureaucratic fine-tuning, Congress should just align the accounting to reflect what every American knows: **there is just one Social Security that protects American workers and their families if they die, become too disabled to work, and when they retire.**

That's why I, along with a number of my colleagues, introduced H.R. 3150, the *One Social Security Act*. This legislation would ensure that Social Security pays 100% of earned benefits using its own money – the \$2.8 trillion surplus all American workers and current beneficiaries helped build up. And it would ensure that money American workers contribute is always available to pay the benefits they earned, by permanently merging the two funds into one trust fund, for one Social Security. I hope you will join me in sponsoring this important legislation.

This long-overdue change, which was first recommended by a bipartisan federal Social Security Advisory Panel in 1979, has no impact on Social Security's projected overall solvency. It has been endorsed by 36 organizations representing American workers, disabled Americans, and seniors.

Enacting this legislation, on a bipartisan basis, would ensure that Americans receive the Social Security benefits they have earned. It paves the way to strengthen and preserve Social Security for generations to come. For more information about the bill or to become a cosponsor, please contact Sirat Attapit at sirat.attapit@mail.house.gov or 5-6235.

Sincerely,



XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress