

Minnesota AFL-CIO Sample Caucus Resolution

Social Security and Medicare are Earned Benefits

BE IT RESOLVED: That _____ Party officials and candidates endorsed by the Party, when speaking of Social Security or Medicare, emphasize that these are earned benefits that workers pay for out of every paycheck.

TALKING POINTS:

- Social Security and Medicare benefits are not government hand-outs. Workers pay into the system – it is all workers' money.
- Approximately 167 million workers contribute 6.2 percent of their income up to \$118,500 to Social Security, in exchange for the promise of benefits in the event of disability, death or old age. An equal amount is matched by their employers.
- Nearly 168 Million Americans contribute to Medicare through payroll taxes. Approximately 53.6 million older Americans and people with disabilities receive access to essential health services through Medicare.
- Medicare has substantially reduced the financial burden associated with serious illness. Yet, Medicare is not overly generous; the program provides fewer benefits than most employer-sponsored health insurance and covers only about half of beneficiaries' total health care costs.
- The Social Security and Medicare systems are common sense capitalism. You pay in while you work, and they pay out when you can't. Social Security and Medicare are a foundation of America's middle class prosperity.