

MEMORANDUM

To: Social Security Advisory Board
Subject: Recent Legislation
Date: July 21, 2015

Social Security Offsets in Transportation Bill. The House and Senate are working on legislation to fund the Highway Trust Fund that is set to deplete on July 31. In the Senate, Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch has provided a list of items to pay for a six-year bill. Two Social Security offsets have been floated to pay for extending the legislation:¹

- Eliminate concurrent receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Insurance.
- Prohibit Social Security or Supplement Security Income payments to beneficiaries with outstanding warrants out for their arrest.

Addressing the Disability Trust Fund. On July 2, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and Subcommittee on Social Security Chairman Sam Johnson announced principles for addressing the upcoming depletion of the Disability Trust Fund: uninterrupted payments to disability beneficiaries, preventing a 20 percent benefit cuts, improving efficiency, and encouraging return-to-work efforts.

Ryan, Johnson, and Hatch call for ideas. On July 8, Chairmen Ryan, Johnson and Hatch released a call for individuals, researchers, businesses, organizations, and advocacy groups to propose ideas for improving finance of the DI Trust Fund. Submissions can be sent to ImproveDI@mail.house.gov.

Ways and Means hearing on Social Security. On July 9, the Ways and Means Committee held a full committee hearing on Social Security. The hearing focused on returning disability beneficiaries to the workforce. Chairman Ryan described the two largest obstacles for returning to work as 1) complicated rules and 2) the “cash cliff.”

¹ <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-SSTF-Co-Chairs-Letter-07-16-15.pdf>