



April 11, 2018

Dear Representative:

Social Security Works is strongly opposed the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA). We view a vote for the BBA as a vote to cut Social Security, as well as Medicare and Medicaid.

Social Security does not add one penny to the federal deficit and Social Security has no borrowing authority. Social Security can only pay benefits and administrative costs if it has enough dedicated revenues and assets.

Because Social Security does not add to the deficit, it, by law, is not counted as part of the budget, but with the BBA, Social Security would no longer be protected, as it should be, from cuts. If the BBA is made law, Congress will, in effect, raid the Social Security Trust Funds, which consists of the Social Security contributions of hard-working Americans. The Trust funds currently have a combined surplus of over \$2.8 trillion. Under the BBA, Social Security would be prohibited from drawing down its large surplus due to the BBA's requirement that federal spending in any year must be offset by revenues collected in *that same year*.

Social Security should not be treated as a piggy bank, used to reduce the deficit it did not cause. Ironically, it is the very Republicans who exploded the deficit with their tax bill, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy.

The BBA is a sneaky way to raid the Social Security Trust Funds and force Social Security benefit cuts down the road. It is immoral and a way to try to avoid political accountability for cutting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. If you vote for the BBA, we will inform your constituents that you have voted, stealthily, to cut Social Security. We urge you strongly not to vote for the Balanced Budget Amendment.

If we can be of assistance, please contact Jasmine Jefferson, Legislative Director, at 202-681-2754, or jjefferson@socialsecurityworks.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman".

Nancy J. Altman
Social Security Works President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Lawson".

Alex Lawson
Executive Director