

S 4986

Social Security COVID Correction and Equity Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Dec 9, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7328) (Dec 9, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4986>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Dec 11, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 9, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7499	Identical bill	Jul 9, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
116 HR 6356	Related bill	Mar 23, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Social Security COVID Correction and Equity Act

This bill expands the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits program, temporarily expands the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, and otherwise modifies these programs.

Specifically, the bill revises OASDI benefits by (1) modifying funding formulas, (2) extending eligibility for certain benefits, and (3) increasing income thresholds used to determine the percentage of benefits subject to federal income tax.

Changes to OASDI funding formulas include (1) increasing the primary insurance amount, (2) establishing new methods to calculate benefits for individuals with lifetime low earnings and for widows and widowers, and (3) modifying application of the national average wage index to prevent certain reductions to benefits.

In addition, children of a deceased, disabled, or retired worker remain eligible for OASDI benefits through age 22 if they are full-time students. Under current law, they receive benefits through age 18.

The bill also extends dependent child benefits under the OASDI program to specified family members other than grandparents or step-grandparents, including in cases where a court grants custody of the dependent child to an eligible family member. To receive benefits under current law, either both parents must be disabled or deceased or a grandparent or step-grandparent must legally adopt the dependent child.

The bill also temporarily increases income and resource limits for the SSI program, thereby temporarily expanding eligibility. This program helps aged, blind, and disabled individuals with limited income and resources meet their basic needs.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 9, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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