

Resolution 2025-04

Defending and Supporting Social Security

Whereas, Social Security is under siege by the current administration and its chainsaw-wielding meddlesome billionaire disciple Elon Musk who labeled the 90-year-old social safety program “the greatest Ponzi scheme ever;” and

Whereas, thousands of Oregonians are affected by these gross and irresponsible characterizations of this helpful, responsible and invaluable program for retirees, surviving spouses and children, and disabled Oregonians; and

Whereas, many AFT members and their families are counted among those helped and able to survive under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), commonly known as Social Security; and

Whereas, committing strong support through convention action, AFT and AFT-Oregon have long been strong supporters of Social Security; and

Whereas, AFT-Oregon Resolution 2005-03, *Opposition to Privatization of Social Security*, resolved “that AFT-Oregon, its members and affiliates are opposed to the privatization of Social Security;” and

Whereas, AFT-Oregon Resolution 2011-02, *Social Security and the Federal Budget Deficit*, resolved “that Social Security must be held apart from proposals for reducing the federal government deficit;” and “AFT-Oregon, its members and affiliates support and encourage only such changes in Social Security as are reasonable and necessary to improve benefits and for self-funding of the program;” and

Whereas, AFT-Oregon Resolution No. 2011-03, *Social Security and the Cost of Living*, resolved that “AFT-Oregon, its members and affiliates support the development, enactment and implementation by the Social Security Administration of a cost-of-living formula for Social Security that more accurately measures the true increases in living costs for this group of Americans;” and

Whereas, Social Security in Oregon, according to the most recent reports covers nearly 928,000 Oregonians, reflecting nearly 730,000 retired workers, 46,000 widow(ers) and parents, 24,000 spouses, and 41,000 children; and 90,000 disabled Oregonians; with 83 percent of total beneficiaries age 65 and older; and

Whereas, the total monthly benefits to Oregonians injects nearly \$1.7-billion, \$1.4-billion of that going to retired workers, into the state’s economy; and

Whereas, all currently employed members, along with their employers are making regular monthly payroll tax payments into the program; now

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that AFT-Oregon re-affirm and continue its support for current member-beneficiaries and future beneficiaries; and be on guard and vigilant against efforts to diminish the program in any way; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that AFT-Oregon memorialize the entire Oregon Congressional delegation demanding their support for the maintenance and perpetuation of Social Security as a major feature of the social safety net for Oregonians and all citizens of the country.

Submitted by AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter 8035R