

Bruce Poliquin (ME-02) Social Security Backup

Poliquin's votes put Social Security at risk, and supports raising the retirement age and capping cost-of-living increases for retirees

Poliquin's Votes Put Social Security At Risk

Poliquin Voted To Jeopardize Social Security Disability. In January 2015, Poliquin voted for a House Rules package that contained a provision that could threaten benefit cuts to Social Security. The provision would block Congress from redirecting payroll tax revenue from Social Security to the Social Security disability program to help keep the program afloat. The provision would block a transfer unless it was part of a larger plan to address Social Security's finances through benefit cuts or tax increases. The resolution passed, 234-172. [H Res 5, [Vote #6](#), 1/06/15; Politico, [1/20/15](#)]

Poliquin Voted For The Conference Report Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. In December 2017, 227 Republicans voted for: "adoption of the conference report on the bill that would revise the federal income tax system by lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to \$10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to \$2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for 'pass-through' business income through 2025." The conference report was adopted 227-203. [HR 1, [Vote #692](#), 12/19/17; CQ Floor Votes, [12/19/17](#)]

AP: "A Wide Range Of Economists And Nonpartisan Analysts Have Warned That The Bill Will Likely Escalate Federal Debt, Intensify Pressure To Cut Spending On Social Programs And Further Widen America's Troubling Income Inequality." "The tax overhaul of 2017 amounts to a high-stakes gamble by Republicans in Congress: That slashing taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals will accelerate growth and assure greater prosperity for Americans for years to come. The risks are considerable. A wide range of economists and nonpartisan analysts have warned that the bill will likely escalate federal debt, intensify pressure to cut spending on social programs and further widen America's troubling income inequality." [Associated Press, [12/17/17](#)]

After Passing A Tax Bill That Added Trillions To The Deficit, Speaker Ryan Said Medicare And Medicaid Would Need To Be "Reformed" In Order To Decrease The Deficit. "With his dream of tax reform now realized, Ryan is hoping to make progress on two other issues he's targeted during his two-decade career in Washington: entitlement and welfare reform. 'We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,' Ryan, a former Budget Committee chairman, said in a recent interview this month on the Ross Kaminsky radio talk show. Medicare and Medicaid are the 'big drivers of debt,' Ryan said, suggesting Republicans could once again use the budget reconciliation process to avoid a Democratic filibuster. Medicare is the 'biggest entitlement that's got to have reform,' Ryan added." [The Hill, [12/26/17](#)]

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Poliquin Supports Raising The Retirement Age

April 2012: Poliquin Said He Supported Raising The Retirement Age. “I’m very encouraged by and impressed with Congressman Ryan,’ Poliquin says. ‘The part I like about his budget is that he’s dead serious about cutting all of government spending. I don’t think he cuts enough soon enough, but he also is very serious about paying down our debt.’ Poliquin has a plan of his own for saving Social Security: ‘The way to do it is raise the retirement age for new entrants and also slow down the rate of growth of benefits.’” [National Review, [4/30/12](#)]

Poliquin Supports Capping Cost-Of-Living Increases For Retirees

Poliquin Supported Forgoing Cost Of Living Increases In The State Pension Plan. “Now, if you are retired, in this system, we will not cut your pension checks. But, we are asking you do, for the next three years, forgo any cost of living increase adjustments. And, beyond three years, cap it at 2%. If you are still working, but you are in the system, and accruing benefits, we are asking you to do is to pay another 2% towards your own retirement. 2% of your salary. And, then if you are not vested, you are a new hire, or haven’t been hired yet, been there less than 5 years, we ask you to retire at age 65 instead of age 62.” [YouTube, 11:30, [4/25/11](#)]