



## Sample Letters to the Editor: Income Inequality on our Social Security System

### Sample Letter to the Editor from someone on SSDI, approximately 193 words

I worked until I was (age) and (had an accident/ was diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_). I finally faced the fact that I couldn't work anymore and applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). After (\_\_\_\_\_) *months / years* of paperwork and doctors visits, I now receive (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /*mo*) and can just about pay my essential bills. ***(this is just a suggestion - tell your story in your own words)***

Because we all contribute and we all benefit, our Social Security system works. But the wealthy don't pay on income over \$118,500. That is not right.

Recently, CBS News reported\* that families are finding it much harder to save for retirement “yet retirement assets are actually hitting record highs.”

Meanwhile, unless Congress takes action by the end of 2016, SSDI is projected to be able to pay only 80% of benefits. I'll be devastated if this happens, forced to choose between rent, food, utilities and essential medical care.

I need Rep/Sen \_\_\_\_\_ to fight for our Social Security System by making sure everybody pays their fair share into it. Our (state) is stronger when we all work together and look out for each other.

\* <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-inequality-is-worsening-the-retirement-crisis/>

### Sample Letter to the Editor from a friend or family member, approximately 186 words

My (\_\_\_\_\_ *sister/brother/mother/friend...*) paid into Social Security for (\_\_\_\_\_) years, working until (*she/he*) (\_\_\_\_\_ *had an accident/ was diagnosed with* \_\_\_\_\_). When it was painfully clear that she/he couldn't work anymore, I helped (*her/him*) go through the long and arduous process of applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). After \_\_\_\_\_ years, (*she/he*) now receives (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /*mo*) and can just about make ends meet.

America's Social Security system is funded by employees and employers - we all contribute and we all benefit. But the wealthy don't pay on income over \$118,500. CBS News recently reported\* that families are finding it much harder to save for retirement “yet retirement assets are actually hitting record highs.”\*

Meanwhile, unless Congress takes action by the end of 2016, SSDI will need to reduce benefits by 20% (projected). My (\_\_\_\_\_ *family/friend*) would be distraught and, like many other (\_\_\_\_\_ *state*) residents, end up in poverty.

We need Rep/Sen \_\_\_\_\_ to fight for our Social Security System by making sure everybody pays their fair share into it. Our (state) is stronger when we all work together and look out for each other.

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