

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY: THE NEGATIVE

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income .

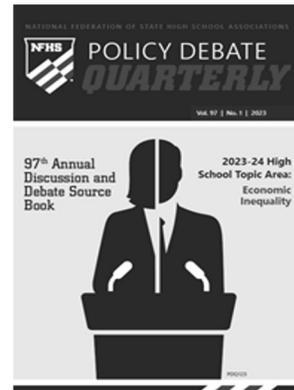
A Look at Possible Negative Responses

Rich Edwards, Ph.D.
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Negative Toolbox

- ❖ Topicality
- ❖ Disadvantages
- ❖ Case
- ❖ Counterplans
- ❖ Kritiks

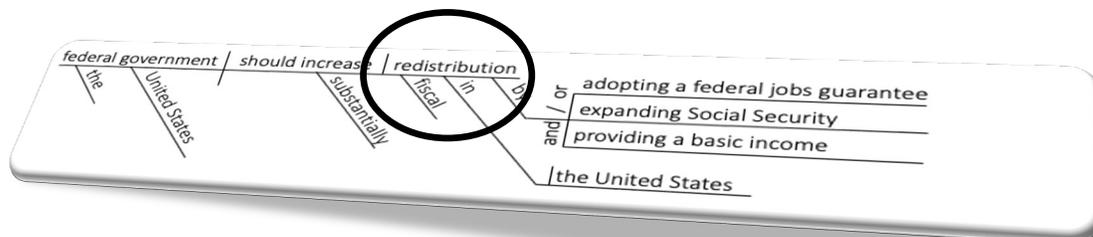


<https://www.nfhs.org/nfhs-for-you/speechdebate-theatredirectors-judges/policy-debate-quarterly>

A brief look at Disadvantages and Case Arguments will be provided here; see other slide series for Counterplans. Kritiks are not acceptable in all parts of the country and will not be discussed here. Consult the NFHS publication, *Policy Debate Quarterly #4* for a full discussion of negative options on the income inequality topic.

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TOPICALITY: FISCAL REDISTRIBUTION



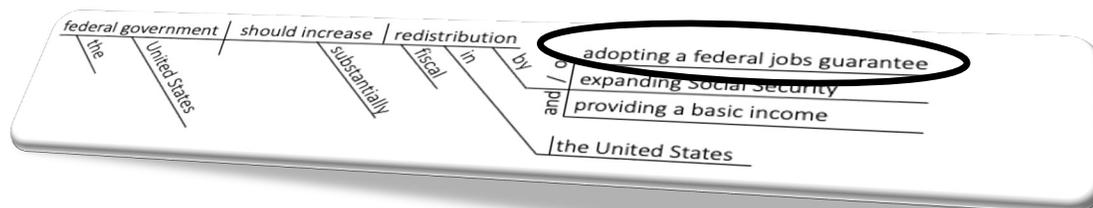
Fiscal redistribution requires a tax and transfer scheme; cases that do not increase taxes are not topical.

Sheff Economics Research, FISCAL REDISTRIBUTION AHEAD OF ELECTIONS TO BOLSTER DEMOCRACY, Feb. 4, 2016. Retrieved May 31, 2023 from <https://medium.com/@sheffeconomics/democratic-government-policies-tackling-inequality-before-elections-supports-democracy-17006e6eb29>

Fiscal redistribution is defined as the reduction in income inequality, brought about by government via taxes and transfers.

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TOPICALITY: FEDERAL JOBS GUARANTEE



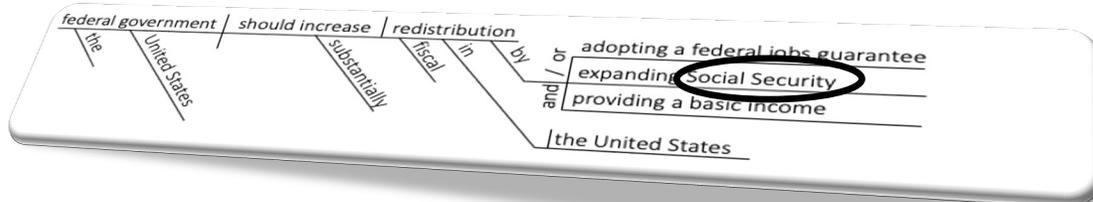
A federal jobs guarantee means all persons in the U.S. are guaranteed a job; cases selecting a particular occupation or geographic region are not topical.

Ryan Bhandari, (Former Senior Policy Advisor, Third Way), WHAT IS THE "FEDERAL JOBS GUARANTEE" AND WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT IT? Mar. 25, 2019. Retrieved May 23, 2023 from www.thirdway.org/memo/what-is-the-federal-jobs-guarantee-and-what-are-people-saying-about-it

What is the federal jobs guarantee? A federal jobs guarantee is as simple as it sounds on the surface: everyone in the country will be guaranteed a job by the US government should they desire one.

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TOPICALITY: SOCIAL SECURITY



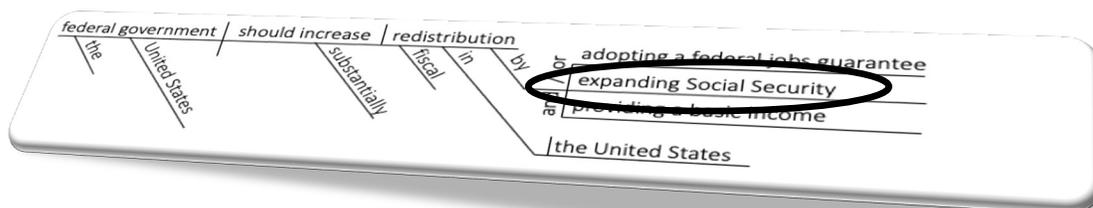
Social Security means OASDI, not every program that is part is part of the Social Security Act.

AMERICORPS, MEMBER PUBLIC BENEFITS INFORMATION GUIDE. Sept. 9, 2021. Retrieved May 30, 2023 from www.volunteeriowa.org/document/amicorps-member-public-benefits-information-guide

The OASDI program—which for most Americans means “Social Security”—is the largest income-maintenance program in the United States. The program provides monthly benefits designed to replace, in part, the loss of income due to retirement, disability, or death.

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TOPICALITY: EXPANDING



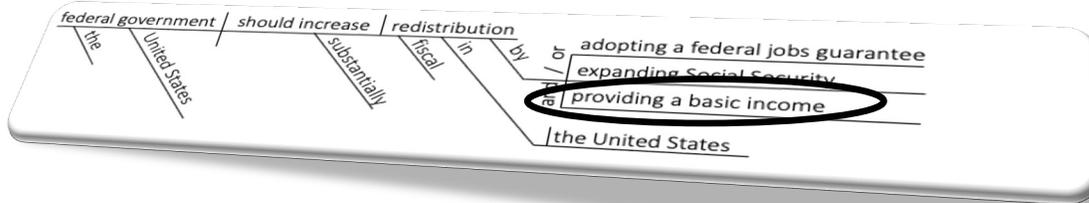
Expanding Social Security means to extend to more people; cases that simply increase benefit levels to existing recipients are not topical.

Sandra Anderson, et al. (Editors), COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY, 2006, 574.

Expand: To spread out, or be spread out.

6

TOPICALITY: BASIC INCOME



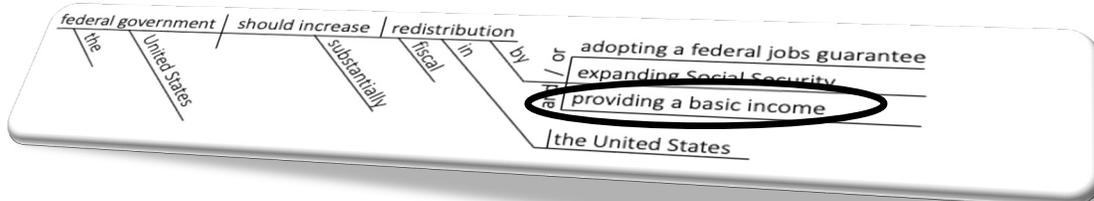
A Basic Income is universal; cases that provide a basic income to a subset of the population are not topical.

Guy Standing, (Research Associate, University of London), BASIC INCOME, AND HOW WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, 2017, 3.

We need to start by defining what is meant by a basic income. Although there are a number of variants, which will be discussed in due course, a basic income can be defined as a modest amount of money paid unconditionally to individuals on a regular basis (for example, monthly). It is often called a universal basic income because it is intended to be paid to all.

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TOPICALITY: BASIC INCOME



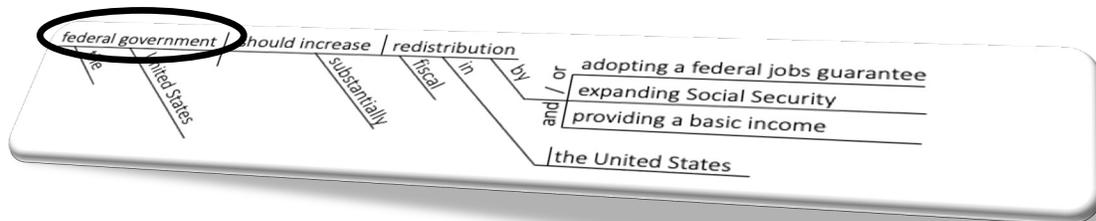
A Basic Income is unconditional; cases that give a monthly income only to people meeting certain conditions are not topical.

Philippe Van Parijs & Yannick Vanderborght, (Prof., Economic and Social Ethics, U. Louvain/Prof., Political Science, U. St. Louis, Brussels), BASIC INCOME: A RADICAL PROPOSAL FOR A FREE SOCIETY AND A SANE ECONOMY, 2019, 21.

A basic income is a regular cash income that is individual and universal. It further differs from conditional minimum-income schemes in having no strings attached; it carries no obligation for its beneficiaries to work or be available on the labor market. In this precise sense, we shall say that a basic income is obligation free.

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TOPICALITY: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Federal government means the government in Washington, DC: Plans that acts through states or localities are not topical.

Christine Lindberg, (Editor), OXFORD COLLEGE DICTIONARY, 2nd Ed., 2007, 502.

Federal government: Of, relating to, or denoting the central government as distinguished from the separate units constituting a federation.

9

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A DISADVANTAGE?

Uniqueness: Explain (with evidence) why the disadvantage is not happening in the present system.

Link: Explain (with evidence and/or by citing claims made in the Affirmative case) why the adoption of the plan will cause the disadvantage.

Impact: Establish (with evidence) why the disadvantage would cause great harm.

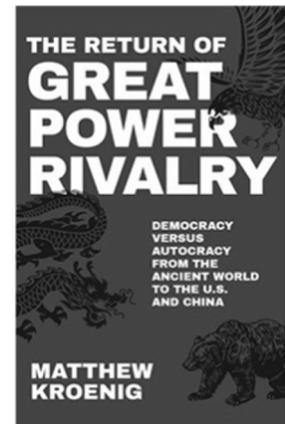
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DISADVANTAGE: INFLATION

Uniqueness: The Federal Reserve Board is now bringing inflation back under control, but reasons for concern remain.

Link: The economic stimulus provided by the affirmative plan will overwhelm efforts to control inflation, leading to a loss of U.S. economic leadership vis-a-vis China.

Impact: Loss of U.S. economic leadership leads to great power war: Kroenig, 2020, p. 6 – (see book at right): “Many fear that a power transition between Beijing and Washington would produce a similar catastrophic result. Continued American leadership, therefore, could forestall this transition and may be necessary for continued peace and stability among the major powers. “



\$17.31 Online

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DISADVANTAGE: GROWTH BAD

Uniqueness: The affirmative case establishes that the U.S. economy is stagnating at present.

Link: The affirmative solvency argument claims that the plan will jump-start U.S. economic growth.

Impact: Increased economic growth will push the world past the brink for climate change, risking human extinction.

Are Humans Facing Near-Term Extinction Due to Global Warming?

JOHN COVIELLO · OCT 15, 2022 10:59 PM EDT



Will Earth overheat and threaten human survival?
soapboxie.com

A Pivotal Time

It is a stark question, but one that needs to be asked because global warming is kicking into high gear and it is quickly becoming the only question that really matters: Are humans facing near-term extinction due to global warming?

<https://soapboxie.com/social-issues/Are-Humans-Facing-Near-Term-Human-Extinction-Due-to-Global-Warming>

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DISADVANTAGE: U.S. HEGEMONY BAD

Uniqueness: The case claims that the U.S. is currently losing its leadership position on the world stage.

Link: The plan claims to restore and build U.S. soft power and leadership.

Impact: A U.S. return to world leadership and dominance results in unending wars.

Why global hegemony was the worst thing to happen to America
The case against America being the most powerful nation on the planet



RYAN COOPER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Do we need another 672 million people in this country? That's the argument advanced in Matt Yglesias's new book *One Billion Americans*. By accepting a great many more immigrants, and increasing the birthrate with pro-family policy, we might roughly triple our population.

<https://theweek.com/articles/937094/why-global-hegemony-worst-thing-happen-america>

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UNIVERSAL FEDERAL JOBS GUARANTEE

Harm: The current rate of unemployment is historically low, including for minorities.

Inherency: The Earned Income Tax Credit adequately compensates for low-paying jobs.

Solvency: Useful federal jobs could never be created on the scale proposed; the jobs guarantee would eliminate any incentive for skills development.

Proposed Federal Jobs Guarantee Is Too Big to Exist
Reading Time: 4 minutes



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Prominent Democrats have begun signing on to a plan for a federal jobs guarantee. The scope of the plan is enormous: the government would provide a job at \$15 per hour with healthcare and other benefits to any American who wanted one. The proposal is apparently popular among surveyed voters across the political spectrum.

Early media coverage has focused on how the plan could be a political asset for Democrats in 2020, as well as the plan's undoubtedly high cost. Economists on both sides of the issue will tweak assumptions in theoretical models to show estimated costs and benefits to the economy that fit their pre-existing views. And they will entirely miss the point.

The federal jobs guarantee, as spelled out in Democratic policy circles, would arguably be the largest public intervention in the economy in American history. [The Levy Institute](https://www.aier.org/article/proposed-federal-jobs-guarantee-is-too-big-to-exist/), one

<https://www.aier.org/article/proposed-federal-jobs-guarantee-is-too-big-to-exist/>

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GREEN NEW DEAL

Harm: The shift to renewables is now happening at high speed; wind and solar power is now cheaper than fossil fuels.

Inherency: The Inflation Reduction Act provides major tax incentives for private creation of green jobs.

Solvency: Federal job guarantee workers would not have the skills to perform the complex solar and wind power installations that private energy companies already have trained workers to perform.

Solar is now the cheapest energy in history

And it still has room to get even cheaper.

 by Tibi Puiu — October 9, 2022 in Science

Thanks to incrementally better technology, panel design, and manufacturing of scale, solar panels have become incredibly cheap. In the past decade alone, their price per unit of generated energy has fallen by 85%, so much so that multiple reports consider solar to be the cheapest energy ever.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), two-thirds of all wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects that came online in 2020 were cheaper than the cheapest new fossil fuel power plants. That's double the equivalent share for 2019.

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/solar-is-now-the-cheapest-energy-in-history/>

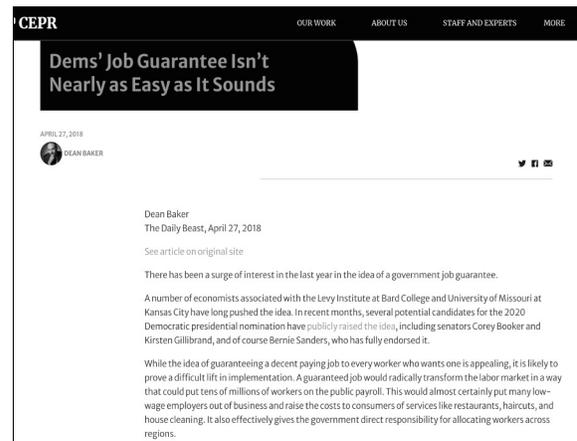
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NATIONAL INVESTMENT EMPLOYMENT CORPS (NIEC)

Harm: Unemployment is already at historic lows.

Inherency: The Inflation Reduction Act provides tax incentives for private job creation.

Solvency: Federal jobs would be make-work positions; employees would do shoddy work because they couldn't be fired; the skills to accomplish infrastructure projects would be lacking.



CEPR OUR WORK ABOUT US STAFF AND EXPERTS MORE

Dems' Job Guarantee Isn't Nearly as Easy as It Sounds

APRIL 27, 2018 DEAN BAKER

Dean Baker
The Daily Beast, April 27, 2018

See article on original site

There has been a surge of interest in the last year in the idea of a government job guarantee.

A number of economists associated with the Levy Institute at Bard College and University of Missouri at Kansas City have long pushed the idea. In recent months, several potential candidates for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination have publicly raised the idea, including senators Corey Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand, and of course Bernie Sanders, who has fully endorsed it.

While the idea of guaranteeing a decent paying job to every worker who wants one is appealing, it is likely to prove a difficult lift in implementation. A guaranteed job would radically transform the labor market in a way that could put tens of millions of workers on the public payroll. This would almost certainly put many low-wage employers out of business and raise the costs to consumers of services like restaurants, haircuts, and house cleaning. It also effectively gives the government direct responsibility for allocating workers across regions.

<https://cepr.net/dems-job-guarantee-isn-t-nearly-as-easy-as-it-sounds/>

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CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS PLAN TO SAVE DEPRESSED AREAS

Harm: Unemployment is at historic lows throughout America, but this is also true for minorities.

Inherency: The federal government already has dozens of programs designed to stimulate private sector job creation in depressed areas.

Solvency: Efforts to provide assistance based on geography are less effective than targeting assistance to people with low incomes, regardless of location.

Black unemployment hits historic low

- Historically Black unemployment has been twice the rate of white workers
- Wages grew slightly but haven't kept up with inflation
- Many of the jobs added to the economy are in low-wage sectors

Stephanie Whiteside
Updated: MAY 5, 2023 / 11:32 AM CDT

(NewsNation) — The latest unemployment numbers show a surprisingly strong labor market, with unemployment for Black Americans hitting a record low.

The latest round of unemployment numbers defied predictions, with the rate continuing to drop even as inflation continues to soar.

Overall unemployment hit 3.4%, a number that is as low or lower than anything seen since 1969. For Black Americans, unemployment rates hit historic lows. Black men ages 20 and older had an unemployment rate of 4.5%, which is the lowest on record and the first time the unemployment rate for that group has been under 5% since the government began using the current unemployment tracking system in 1972.

<https://www.newsnationnow.com/business/black-unemployment-hits-historic-low/>

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RETIREMENT SECURITY

Harm: Elderly Americans are living longer, are healthier, and remain major contributors to the labor force. Delaying retirement benefits both the economy and the health of the elderly.

Inherency: Private retirement savings in the U.S. are massive, they supplement Social Security in retirement.

Solvency: Expanding Social Security harms worker health and the economy by incentivizing early retirement. It also places an unfair burden on young workers who must carry the increased load.

BENEFITS | July 27, 2020

Social Security Burdens Fall on Younger Workers

As unemployment rises and employees retire sooner, experts say Social Security will be exhausted faster than predicted.

Reported by AMANDA UMPERREZ

✉ When Social Security was designed during the Great Depression, there were more than 45 employees to fund benefits for one retiree. There were few beneficiaries and many employees, but, in 2020, that ratio has dropped to roughly three to one.

📄 Doubts in the long-term viability of Social Security have risen in past years, long before COVID-19 spun the economy into an unprecedented downturn. Pre-pandemic, the Social Security Trustees Report showed the combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASI and DI) are projected to be depleted in 2035, with 79% of benefits payable. Now, as unemployment numbers rise to all-time highs and more employees are retiring sooner, experts say Social Security will be exhausted at a quicker pace.

<https://www.plansponsor.com/social-security-burdens-fall-younger-workers/>

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MEDICARE FOR ALL

Harm: The quality of U.S. health care is good and costs are in line with other developed countries; Medicare costs are low only because of cost shifting to private health insurance companies.

Inherency: Community health centers, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) ensure necessary care for all.

Solvency: The plan would lead to rationing, hospital closures, and medical professionals retiring rather than accepting dramatically lower payments.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/09/opinion/medicare-for-all-cost.html>

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SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

Harm: The asset requirement is not that serious a problem considering that a home and automobile are excluded.

Inherency: Persons with disabilities can also receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) which has higher payments and no asset limits.

Solvency: Even if asset limits are lifted, SSI payment levels are insufficient to lift people out of poverty; the real solution is fairness in employment for persons with disabilities, as provided by the ADA.



https://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Asset_Requirements_for_SSI_Factsheet_FINAL-20210113_ACCESS.pdf

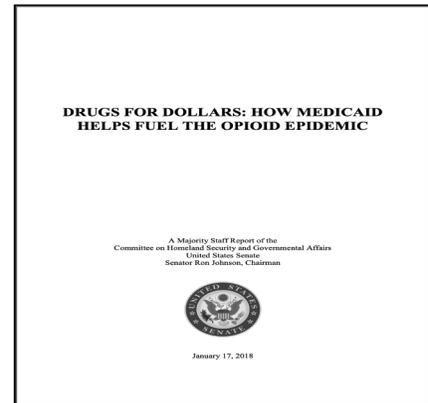
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MEDICAID EXPANSION

Harm: Medicaid expansion has been associated with worse health outcomes due to opioid addiction; states should be able to make their own decisions about expansion.

Inherency: Under the current terms of the Court decision, states are given the option for expansion.

Solvency: Medicaid is a state-administered program; cooperation of each state government is essential if the program is to work; this is a prime reason for allowing choice.



<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Statement%20for%20Record-HSGAC%20Majority%20Staff%20Report-2018-01-17.pdf>

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP) FOR IMMIGRANTS

Harm: States are now given the option to offer CHIP coverage through the terms of the 2015 Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

Inherency: Immigrant children can receive necessary care through Community health centers and the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).

Solvency: The real reason that immigrant children avoid receiving care is concern about exposing immigrant families to ICE attention.



<https://stateline.org/2022/12/06/more-states-offer-health-coverage-to-immigrant-children/>

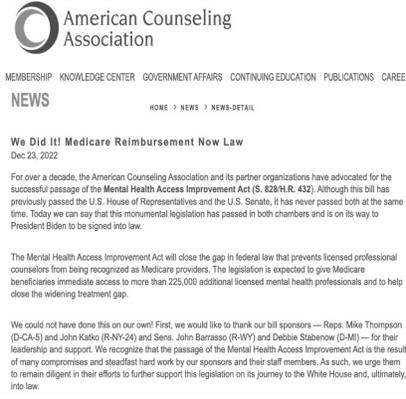
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MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN SOCIAL SECURITY

Harm: The elderly have access to mental health care, including substance abuse treatment.

Inherency: The Mental Health Access Improvement Act passed in late December 2022, dramatically increasing Social Security coverage of mental health care.

Solvency: The plan does nothing to solve the real cause of poor access to mental health care – the shortage of mental health professionals who are willing to accept Social Security reimbursement rates.



American Counseling Association

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We Did It! Medicare Reimbursement Now Law
Dec 23, 2022

For over a decade, the American Counseling Association and its partner organizations have advocated for the successful passage of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (S. 428/R.R. 432). Although this bill has previously passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, it has never passed both at the same time. Today we can say that this monumental legislation has passed in both chambers and is on its way to President Biden to be signed into law.

The Mental Health Access Improvement Act will close the gap in federal law that prevents licensed professional counselors from being recognized as Medicare providers. The legislation is expected to give Medicare beneficiaries immediate access to more than 225,000 additional licensed mental health professionals and to help close the widening treatment gap.

We could not have done this on our own! First, we would like to thank our bill sponsors — Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA-5) and John Kato (R-NY-24) and Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) — for their leadership and support. We recognize that the passage of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act is the result of many compromises and steadfast hard work by our sponsors and their staff members. As such, we urge them to remain diligent in their efforts to further support this legislation on its journey to the White House and, ultimately, into law.

<https://www.counseling.org/news/news-detail/2022/12/23/we-did-it!-medicare-reimbursement-now-law>

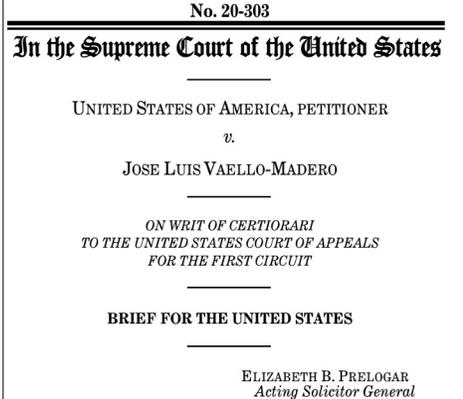
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SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME IN THE U.S. TERRITORIES

Harm: Residents in territories do not pay federal taxes, which is why denial of SSI benefits is appropriate; the territories could provide their own program for the disabled.

Inherency: Disabled residents in the territories do receive Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD); payment levels and qualifications are up to them.

Solvency: SSI is not a highly optimal program for the disabled; it has difficult qualification criteria and a low asset limit.



No. 20-303

In the Supreme Court of the United States

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PETITIONER

v.

JOSE LUIS VAELLO-MADERO

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES

ELIZABETH B. PRELOGAR
Acting Solicitor General
Counsel of Record

https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-303/181129/20210607194124315_20-303isUnitedStates.pdf

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EXPAND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Harm: Unemployment is at historic lows; workers have options.

Inherency: In the event of high periods of unemployment or another pandemic-related downturn, we could expand the program temporarily as we did during the pandemic.

Solvency: Unemployment insurance is primarily administered by the states; expanding coverage without their cooperation is unlikely to succeed.



<https://www.wsj.com/articles/january-jobs-report-unemployment-rate-economy-growth-2023-11675374490>

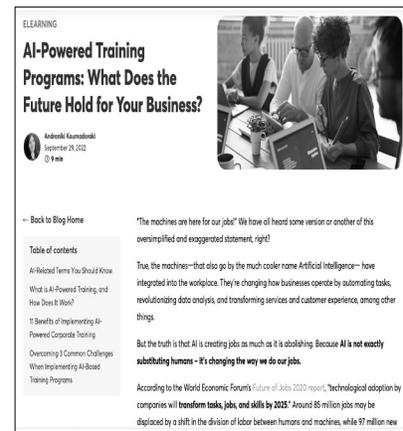
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UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Harm: AI creates more new jobs than it takes away.

Inherency: Private companies are committed to providing the training necessary to adjust to AI; actually, AI itself is making this training process easier: Source at right: “Would you like to hear something funny? Artificial Intelligence can actually help solve the skills gap problem that it’s creating.”

Solvency: UBI does not accomplish fiscal redistribution and will lead to less freedom since it will increase dependence on government.



<https://www.learnworlds.com/ai-powered-training-programs/>

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A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME: THE CONSERVATIVE CASE

Harm: Welfare program administration cost is much less than conservative critics claim.

Inherency: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is now the leading anti-poverty program; there is no stigma, and its administrative costs are tiny.

Solvency: Ending all welfare programs and replacement with a \$10,000 or even \$12,000/year UBI would dramatically increase poverty, while costing the federal government trillions.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/01/business/economy/universal-basic-income-poverty.html>

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Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income .

A Look at Possible Negative Responses

Rich Edwards, Ph.D.

Professor of Communication

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