

SOCIAL SECURITY INVESTMENT  
FUND ACT OF 1999

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. MARKEY and I introduced the "Social Security Investment Fund Act of 1999" with Mr. POMEROY, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MATSUI. This bill gives legislative form to the need to provide workers with a reasonable return on their Social Security payroll taxes while maintaining the guaranteed benefit foundation of the current Social Security system. It would authorize the investment of a portion of the Social Security surplus in the private sector—a diversification strategy used by nearly every other public pension fund in America. It would restrict this discretion, however, to a very conservative form of investment called "index funds." Management would be passive, not active, and the return on investment would mirror the return of the market as a whole, not individual stocks. In this way, the system would benefit from a higher rate-of-return while protecting the system against the shock of market downturns.

The main features include:

An addition of 6 years of solvency to the Social Security System without resort to benefit cuts, payroll tax increases or government borrowing.

The locking-up of Social Security surpluses for Social Security only.

Assumption by the government of the risks of ups and downs in the market so that retirement benefits remain guaranteed.

The structure of the investment program is as follows:

1. *Independence.* We establish the Investment Board as an independent agency. Its activity is self-funded, and its authorization explicitly forbids muddying the pursuit of its fiduciary duty with social, political or religious objectives.

2. *Limited Risk.* The amount to be invested in stocks would remain far less than the amounts already invested in the market by public pension funds—a small fraction of the market as a whole.

3. *Professionalism.* The Board hires fund managers already engaged in managing money in the financial markets for private investors.

4. *Conservatism.* Each fund manager invests only in equity index funds that mirror the market broadly (e.g. the Wilshire 5000) so that the government is at no time engaged in the business of picking winners and losers.

5. *Diversification.* The total amount allocated to each fund manager is limited so that no one controls a disproportionate share of the overall activity of any single company.

6. *Neutrality.* In proxy battles, the fund managers would not decide how to vote the shares. The shares would instead be voted automatically through "mirror voting", where the fund's votes are cast in the same proportion as the votes cast by all other shareholders.

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of National TRIO Day—celebrated each year on the last Saturday in February—to recognize the importance of the Federal TRIO Program.

"What is TRIO?" To millions of disadvantaged Americans the answer is quite simple: "TRIO equal opportunity."

TRIO identifies aspiring students from poor families, prepares them for college-level work, and helps them define and achieve their goals.

TRIO plans a critical role in leveling the educational playing field in our country.

Since 1965, over 10 million Americans have benefitted from TRIO programs, which include—Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Service, Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program, and Educational Opportunity Centers.

In my Congressional District—in western and central Massachusetts—TRIO serves 2500 students each year at 8 separate colleges and universities.

TRIO has helped many of my constituents lift themselves out of poverty and climb into promising careers as teachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists, and business owners.

TRIO means opportunity to young people across the country who would otherwise not be able to attend college and pursue their dreams.

I urge this Congress to recognize the national success of TRIO programs, and to renew our commitment to educational opportunity.

THE INCREDIBLE READING RALLY

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Beaumont Teachers Association and the Literacy Volunteers of America for their terrific work performed in raising money for the adult literacy programs at the Literacy Depot in Beaumont, TX, this week.

Since 1996, Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) has raised national awareness of literacy issues and funds to provide a solution through the Incredible Reading Rally. Developed collaboratively among literacy program managers, volunteers and LVA national leadership, the Incredible Reading Rally involves thousands of adults, school children, businesses, and organizations around the country each February.

Kick-off events have ranged from gala evenings and public appearances by Garfield the Official Spokescat of the Rally, to celebrities like Miss America reading their favorite books to school children. Through the generous sponsorship of Ferrero USA, Literacy Volunteers of America is able to provide materials and supplies to its participating affiliates at no cost to the local programs.

Other corporate sponsors may contribute through either cash or prize donations. Friends

and family can sponsor volunteers by pledging money for each hour per book read during the Rally period. Eighty percent of all monies raised by volunteers will stay in the local community and directly benefit individuals who need reading help. In addition to highlighting the importance of families reading together, this event gives participants a sense of accomplishment about their efforts to support literacy.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Beaumont Teachers of America and Literacy Volunteers of America for their fine work.

TAVELLI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Tavelli Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I comment the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for the Salvation Army for the benefit of the needy is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO COACH DAVEY WHITNEY AND THE ALCORN STATE BRAVES

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me extreme pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest basketball coaches, Coach Davey Whitney, men's head basketball coach at Alcorn State University. Coach Whitney was the first coach to lead a team from a historically black college or university (HBCU) to victory in the NCAA and NIT tournaments.

Alcorn State University, located in Lorman, Mississippi, was once known as a basketball powerhouse under the guidance of Coach Whitney. During his first stint as head coach, the Braves enjoyed 17 straight winning seasons, nine Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles, three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament appearances and two National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearances. Then Coach Whitney retired.

Three years ago he was called upon to return and revive the winning program. Through hard work by Coach Whitney and his staff, along with the dedication of this young talented ball club, the Braves are currently enjoying their best season since 1986, the last time