



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Contact: Wendy Carey
202-224-4515

Baucus Comments on Social Security and Medicare Trustees' Report

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Today, U.S. Senator Max Baucus released the following statement regarding the annual release of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees' Report. The statement follows:

“Today’s report tells us something we have known all along: Social Security is on solid financial ground for decades to come. More specifically, Social Security will be able to pay full benefits until 2041, almost forty years from now. Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office projects that the program will be able to pay benefits for 11 years longer, until 2052. Under either set of projections, Social Security faces a long-term challenge, but there is time to develop a thoughtful plan that will address Social Security's finances, and do it right.

“Medicare faces more severe pressure in the future. In fact, today's Medicare report confirms that Medicare is in worse shape than Social Security. Medicare will not be able to meet its financial obligations in the year 2020, 21 years before funding for Social Security will exhaust. We can take action now to curb spending in Medicare. Using health information technology and rewarding providers based on quality care and better outcomes will help us take steps to strengthen Medicare’s financial base.

“As we address the financial outlook of these programs, privatization is not the answer. Our experience with Medicare shows that, under current law, private plans in Medicare receive more than 107 percent of the costs of caring for seniors in traditional Medicare. Similarly, privatizing Social Security would only worsen the program’s financial problems, causing it to exhaust its assets 11 years earlier. And a plan to privatize Social Security would drastically cut benefits while adding trillions of dollars to the national debt. I am willing to work with the President and my Congressional colleagues to make sure Social Security and Medicare are here for future generations, but privatization is not a solution I can support.”

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