

Social Security Across the Lifespan: Addressing Misconceptions among Young People



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The “Big Lie” That Has Plagued Social Security from the Beginning

- **Myth:** In 1936, FDR’s opponent called Social Security a “cruel hoax,” its trust fund just IOUs.
- **Reality:** Hundreds of millions of Americans have received Social Security benefits over the last 80+ years.



Despite Generations of Evidence, the Myth Persists

- **Myth:** In 2005, President George W. Bush said Social Security would face a crisis in 2018, forced to draw on “worthless IOUs.”
- **Reality:** Nearly 60M Americans receive very real Social Security benefits today.



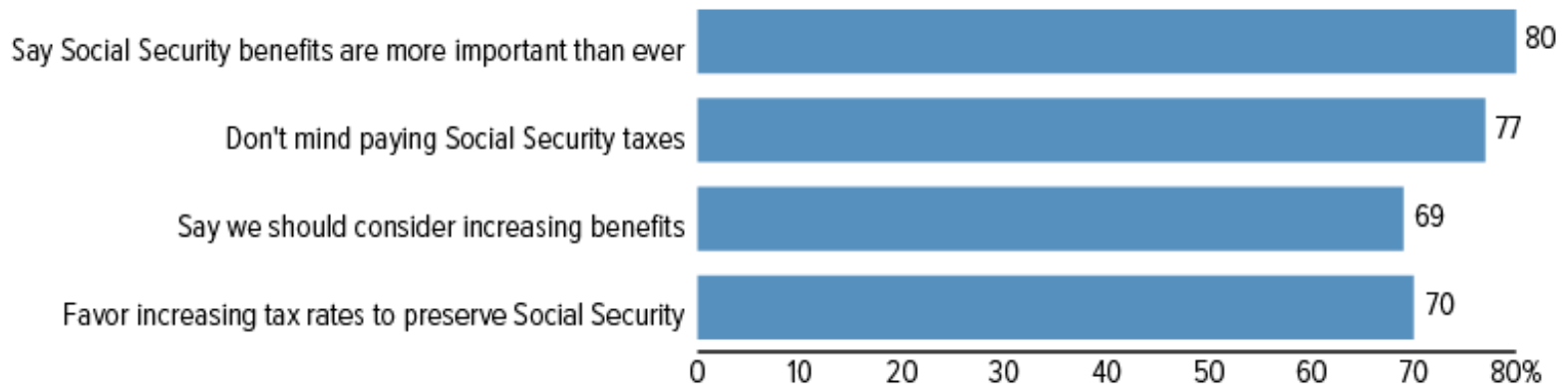
Social Security Is Funded by American Workers...and a \$2.9 *Trillion* Reserve



Millennials *Want* Social Security and Are Willing to Pay More For It

Generation Y Supports Social Security

Percentage of Americans born 1980 and later



Source: Americans Make Hard Choices on Social Security: A Survey with Trade-Off Analysis, National Academy of Social Insurance, 2014

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