

! a message from **OUR CEO**

KIM CURNELL
EPIC CEO

ACTION ALERT: TELL CONGRESS: SUPPORT THE SSI SAVINGS PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Savings Penalty Elimination Act was reintroduced to Congress last week. This bipartisan bill was first on the table on June 16, 2021 thanks to Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. Those passionate about updating the long neglected SSI program include JP Morgan Chase, AARP, Microsoft, The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, hundreds of agencies like ours, and more. ([See Bill Status of S.4102](#))



With rates last set in 1989, the current SSI program limits an individual to only \$2,000 in assets with married couples only allowed to have \$3,000. Assets include money across bank accounts, retirement accounts, and savings. Along with limits also comes rules against in-kind support (friends and family) with basic human needs such as groceries, clothing, or a place to stay. It is important to note, SSI benefits have never been large enough to raise an individual's income past the federal poverty line. SSI's maximum is \$841/mo. where the poverty line is \$1,133/mo.

The current SSI program puts limits on people (disabled and elderly). It stunts their independence by limiting the hours they are able to work and the money they are able to make, save, and spend. People should not be penalized for wanting to work, get married, or have more financial stability. It creates barriers for people to join the workforce and save for the future. Updating the limits to reflect the current economic conditions will play a crucial role in expanding and promoting economic equity and growth. At EPIC we have a workforce that is ready and able to work but these stipulations mean they are not allowed to work a full 40 hours a week without encroaching on or eliminating their benefits.

TAKE ACTION: This bill affects everyone! Urge your U.S Senators to support people and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S.4102) which would raise these asset limits. **It takes less than a minute to send emails to Leaders.** Click the link provided on our website to fill out a simple form that automates everything for you. Take direct action today and encourage your family and friends to do the same!

Thank you on behalf of EPIC Individuals and Staff.