



## **SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S. 1234 / H.R. 2540)**

### **Legislative Request**

Please cosponsor the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act.

### **Background**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides monthly payments to eligible individuals, including many people with disabilities. To qualify, individuals cannot have more than \$2,000 in assets, while married couples are limited to \$3,000 in combined assets. Because the limit for couples is less than double the individual limit, this creates a “marriage penalty” that forces individuals on SSI to choose between marriage and access to critical benefits.

The SSI asset limits, which haven’t been raised since 1984, have failed to keep up with inflation, leaving beneficiaries unable to build sufficient savings without risking their benefits.

### **Bill Summary**

The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act would increase the asset limits to \$10,000 for individuals and \$20,000 for married couples and index both limits annually to adjust for inflation. This would better align the asset limitations with today’s economic conditions and eliminate the “marriage penalty.”

### **Impact**

SSI asset limits make it difficult for people with disabilities to save or plan for the future without risking their benefits. Raising these limits would support greater financial independence by enabling individuals to work, save, and build long-term stability, while also eliminating penalties that discourage marriage.

It would also reduce the fear of losing benefits, which can serve as a barrier to employment, and allow individuals with disabilities to participate in the workforce and save for the future with fewer restrictions.

**For more information, please contact our policy team at [policy@ndss.org](mailto:policy@ndss.org).**