

# What You Should Know About Social Security Privatization

## **Privatizing Social Security would cut guaranteed benefits by 40 percent even for workers who don't choose private accounts.**

The average retiree who works a full career under the Bush plan would lose \$152,000 in retirement benefits.

*(The Century Foundation, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Center for Economic and Policy Research)*

## **Risky privatized accounts won't make up for the benefit cuts.**

For people with private accounts, the government would take at least 70 cents in retirement benefits for every \$1 in their accounts—on top of the 40 percent benefit cut.

*(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)*

## **Privatization would leave many retirees in poverty.**

Taxpayers and family members would have to provide them with the help that now comes from Social Security's guaranteed benefits.

## **Privatization would explode the deficit, saddling our children with \$4.9 trillion in debt**

in the first 20 years alone, mainly borrowed from foreign countries such as China and Japan.

*(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Center for American Progress)*

## **Privatization would open Social Security up to corruption, waste and Enron-ization**

because politicians would decide which Wall Street firms make billions in inflated fees off our private accounts.

## **We have time to strengthen Social Security the right way**

rather than slashing guaranteed retirement benefits. First, we must require Congress to pay back the money borrowed from the trust fund. We could end the "wealthy wage exemption" so CEOs pay the same Social Security taxes on their salaries as we pay on ours. We could repeal the Bush tax cuts for the top 1 percent of taxpayers. And we can help working families build private pensions and savings on top of Social Security.

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