

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

Americans Value Social Security— Willing To Pay For It

(NAPSA)—When it comes to retirement, Americans are counting on Social Security.

Two-thirds of recipients over the age of 65 rely on Social Security for more than half of their total income, according to a report, “Social Security: An Essential Asset and Insurance Protection for All,” released by the non-partisan National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI).

And it’s not just retirees who benefit from Social Security’s protection. Although 69 percent of benefits go to retired persons, 17 percent go to disabled workers and their families and 14 percent go to survivors.

A new poll released by NASI and the Rockefeller Foundation finds that 88 percent of Americans say Social Security is more important than ever as a result of the economic crisis, and three-quarters of Americans say it is critical to preserve Social Security, even if it means paying higher taxes to do so. Americans are willing to pay for Social Security because they value it for themselves (72 percent), their families (75 percent), and for the security and stability it provides to others in need (87 percent). The poll of 1,488 Americans, conducted in July 2009 by the Benenson Strategy Group, sends a strong message about the value that Americans place on Social Security benefits—with over 75 percent of Americans saying that Social Security is or will be an important part of their retirement, and nearly half of recipients stating that they would be unable to afford food, clothing or housing without it.

And the concern is not just with solvency of Social Security, but



Nearly nine in 10 Americans say Social Security benefits are “more important than ever.”

adequacy. Sixty-five percent of Americans want to see an increase in Social Security as a result of lost savings, and 78 percent of Americans are concerned about having enough money for retirement.

With about 31 million Americans expected to retire in the next decade—many with weakened retirement savings due to the economic downturn—adequacy and solvency of Social Security is an urgent issue. And Americans want action. Ninety percent want Congress to act within the next two years to preserve Social Security.

To learn more, visit www.nasi.org or call (202) 452-8097.

Why Americans Are Willing To Pay For Social Security

