



## **BARACK OBAMA: A STEADFAST SUPPORTER OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

*"If there is a senior citizen somewhere who can't pay for their prescription drugs, and having to choose between medicine and the rent, that makes my life poorer, even if it's not my grandparent."*  
-- DNC Speech, 7/27/2004

*"After a lifetime of hard work and contribution to this country, do we tell our seniors that they're on their own, or that we're here for them to provide a basic standard of living? Is the dignity of life in their latter years their problem, or one we all share?"*  
--Speech in Washington, DC 4/26/2005

Social Security has been one of the most successful government programs in our nation's history, ensuring that people who have worked hard all their lives can retire with dignity and financial security and that Americans with disabilities are not left out in the cold. Social Security is the one thing keeping 148,000 Iowa seniors out of poverty. Without it, 50 percent of Iowa seniors would be living below the poverty line.

### **PREVENTING THE PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

Barack Obama played a key role in opposing President Bush's efforts to privatize Social Security. During the privatization debate, he argued frequently and forcefully against privatization. Calling Social Security "Franklin Roosevelt's greatest legacy," Obama made clear that privatizing Social Security would eliminate its certainty as a safety net.

Obama voted against Republican attempts to privatize Social Security or cut its benefits, including a Republican proposal that would have shifted Social Security's annual surpluses into an account intended to be turned into risky private accounts.

### **PRESERVING SOCIAL SECURITY**

Barack Obama will preserve Social Security by working in a bipartisan way to maintain its solvency for future generations. As we work to solve Social Security's problems—which are real but manageable—the focus of reform should be protecting the basic integrity and fairness of the Social Security program.

### **IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY**

Barack Obama co-sponsored the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. The first provision cuts the Social Security benefits of public employees who once worked in private sector jobs, while the second cuts the benefits of the spouse or widow of public employees. These provisions hurt teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees. Barack Obama believes that we have a responsibility to take care of workers who have devoted their lives to public service and that we shouldn't be discouraging our young people from working in these essential jobs.

Paid for by Obama for America.