

An Open Letter to President Bush

ISES
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February 11, 2005

Dear Mr. President,

In your State of the Union Address, you offered to “listen to anyone who has a good idea to offer” on Social Security. You further stated that these ideas should fulfill your goals of making the system permanently sound, while avoiding an increase in payroll taxes, protecting low income Americans, maintaining promised benefits to those now retired or nearing retirement, and giving younger workers years to prepare and plan for their future.

We respectfully submit the following:

- **Merge the Social Security Trust Fund into the U.S. Treasury**
- **Make Social Security an obligation of the United States**
- **Allow tax sheltered savings accounts to enhance retirement planning**
- **End the Social Security payroll tax**

Social Security is a solemn commitment of our nation to its oldest members. This commitment should be funded by a progressive income tax, and upheld by the full faith and credit of the government. Promised benefits should not be conditioned on participation in private savings. Instead, enhanced retirement planning should be encouraged through a revenue system that rewards personal saving.



Leonard Greene
President

The Institute for SocioEconomic Studies is a private operating foundation that examines issues relating to economic development, poverty, health care reform, and the quality of life.