

# House Republicans Eyeing Cuts To Social Security And Medicare As They Negotiate Around A Future Debt Limit Deadline

**Summary:** In the face of imminent default without passage of a debt limit agreement, House Republicans are [determined](#) to cut spending. While the Republican Study Committee has [proposed](#) increasing the eligibility age of Medicare and Social Security—which amounts to a massive benefit cuts, [disproportionately](#) impacting communities of color—individual House Republicans have floated slashing Medicare and Social Security programs in exchange for lifting the debt ceiling:

- **The Republican Study Committee**, representing [over 170 members of the House Republican Caucus](#), released a [proposed budget](#) in June 2022 calling for an increase in the eligibility age of Medicare and Social Security and additional means testing for benefits, changes that have been criticized as disproportionately [impacting](#) communities of color, [increasing](#) the amount 3.3 million retirees would pay each year in premiums, and fundamentally undermining Medicare’s [“universality and integrity.”](#)
- **House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)** suggested Republicans would use a debt limit deadline as [“leverage to spending cuts,”](#) including potential cuts to Medicare and Social Security.
- **Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)**—current [Way and Means Chair](#) and former Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee—[suggested](#) Republicans would use a debt limit deal to force changes to Social Security and Medicare, calling it [“clearly one of those tools that Republicans — that a Republican-controlled Congress — will use to make sure that we do everything we can to make this economy strong.”](#)
- **Rep. Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-GA)** revealed Republicans’ [“main focus”](#) in the new Congress has to be non discretionary entitlement programs and [suggested](#) raising the eligibility age of Social Security.
- **Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)**—Current [Chairman of the House Budget Committee](#)—indicated Republicans would [fight for an increase](#) to the Medicare and Social Security eligibility age in future budget deals after previously stating in 2016 that politicians don’t have the [“courage”](#) to talk about cuts to the programs.
- **Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)** voiced support for additional means testing on Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries, stating [“we should ensure that we keep the promises that were made to the people who really need it”](#) and that [“some sort of means-testing potentially would help to ensure that we can do that.”](#)
- **Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK)**—new [chair of the Republican Study Committee](#)—joined House Republicans in wanting to use the debt limit deadline to [“enact fiscally conservative legislation,”](#) calling it [“obviously a leverage point.”](#) Hern later admitted [“we have no choice but to make hard decisions”](#) when it comes to budget cuts and that [“everybody has to look at everything.”](#)

Additional House Republicans have stated that [“everything has to be on the table”](#) when it comes to budget cuts:

- **Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)** admitted Republicans would [“get thrown out of office \[if\] we told the truth’ about their party’s plans for Social Security”](#) as he discussed the difficulty in actually cutting Social Security.

- **Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)** revealed in an interview with Fox News that [“everything has to be on the table”](#) when it comes to budget cuts.
- **House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN)** admitted that instead of going after defense spending [“it’s the domestic spending that we’re going to go after.”](#)
- **Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)** claimed that Republicans won’t [“touch”](#) current beneficiaries of Social Security and Medicare, while admitting that Republicans will have to [“figur\[e\] out how we’re going to make those work.”](#)
- **Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)** suggested the retirement age should be increased, claiming his constituents told him [“they actually want to work longer,”](#) and that [“if people want to work longer, maybe you need to give them an incentive to do it.”](#)
- **Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)** stated he opposed a balanced budget off the [“backs of our troops and our military,”](#) and that [“if we really want to talk about the debt and spending, it’s the entitlement programs.”](#)

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**In June 2022, The Republican Study Committee, “Account[ing] For A Majority Of The House Republican Conference,” Released A Proposed Budget Calling For An Increase In The Eligibility Age Of Medicare And Social Security And Additional Means Testing For Benefits—These Changes Have Been Criticized As Disproportionately Impacting Communities Of Color, Increasing The Amount 3.3 Million Retirees Would Pay Each Year In Premiums, And Fundamentally Undermining Medicare’s “Universality And Integrity.”**

**In June 2022, The Republican Study Committee—With Over 170 Members “Account[ing] For A Majority Of The House Republican Conference”—Released A Budget Calling For An Increase To The Eligibility Age Of Medicare And Social Security While Also Phasing In Increased Means Testing Of Those Eligible For Benefits.**

**In June 2022, The Republican Study Committee—”The Largest Group Of House Republicans”—Released A Budget Calling For Several Cuts To Medicare And Social Security, Including Increasing The Age Of Eligibility To 67 For Medicare And 70 For Social Security.** “The Republican Study Committee, the largest group of House Republicans, released a budget plan in June that called on lawmakers to gradually raise the Medicare age of eligibility to 67 and the Social Security eligibility to 70 before indexing both to life expectancy. It backed withholding payments to those who retired early and had earnings over a certain limit. And it endorsed the consideration of options to reduce payroll taxes that fund Social Security and redirect them to private alternatives. It also urged lawmakers to ‘phase-in an increase in means testing’ for Medicare.” [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

**The Republican Study Committee Budget Would Also “Phase In An Increase In Means Testing” In Order To “Decouple The Cost Of Medicare From The Aging Of Our Nation.** “Under current law, Medicare already has some means testing. The RSC Budget’s plan would phase in an increase in means testing. Doing so would decouple the cost of Medicare from the aging of our nation. Further, it would allow benefits to be focused on the seniors that need them most without pumping more inflationary federal funds into healthcare than is necessary.” [Republican Study Committee FY 2022 Budget, accessed [12/19/22](#)]

**The Republican Study Committee Has Over 170 Members And “Accounts For A Majority Of The House Republican Conference.”** “The Republican Study Committee, which has more than 150 members and accounts for a majority of the House Republican Conference, will mark its 50th anniversary next year.” [The Hill, [09/29/22](#)]

- **As Of February 8, 2023, The Republican Study Committee Listed 172 Members On Its Website.** [Republican Study Committee, accessed [02/08/23](#)]

**Increases To The Medicare Age Of Eligibility Disproportionately Impact Communities Of Color And Could Lead To 3.3 Million Retirees “Fac[ing] An Average Of \$2,200 More Each Year In Premiums And Cost-Sharing Charges.”**

**Raising The Medicare Age Of Eligibility To 67 From 65 Is A Benefit Cut Disproportionately Impacting Communities Of Color That “Tend To Be In Poorer Health At Earlier Ages, Accumulate Less Wealth That Can Be Used To Pay For Health Care Due To Lower Lifetime Earnings, And Have Shorter Life Expectancies On Average.”** “Raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 is a benefit cut. It is being advanced solely for budgetary considerations – to reduce the rate of growth in Medicare spending – with little regard for the harmful consequences for Medicare beneficiaries who have paid into the program during their working lives and count on receiving Medicare. Communities of color would be hardest hit because they tend to be in poorer health at earlier ages, accumulate less wealth that can be used to pay for health care due to lower lifetime earnings, and have shorter life expectancies on average.” [NCPSSM, [05/15/19](#)]

**In 2011, A Kaiser Family Foundation Report Found Increasing The Medicare Eligibility Age To 67 Would Cause 65- And 66-Year-Olds To Lose Coverage, With Two-Thirds Of This Group, Approximately 3.3 Million People, “Fac[ing] An Average Of \$2,200 More Each Year In Premiums And Cost-Sharing Charges.”** “In 2011, the Kaiser Family Foundation, in a report titled Raising the Age of Medicare Eligibility: A Fresh Look Following Implementation of Health Reform, [...], and the Center on Budget and Priority Policies, in a paper, Raising Medicare’s Eligibility Age Would Increase Overall Health Spending and Shift Costs to Seniors,

States, and Employers, [...], described who would incur the new health care costs associated with this shift. They are: 65- and 66-year-olds who would lose Medicare coverage and would, on average, face higher out-of-pocket health care costs. Two-thirds of this group – 3.3 million people – would face an average of \$2,200 more each year in premiums and cost-sharing charges.” [NCPSSM, [05/15/19](#)]

**Meanwhile, Plans To Increase The Full Retirement Age To 70 Have Been Criticized As “A Benefit Cut, Plain And Simple,” That Ignore The Fact “Many Workers, Especially Those In Physically Demanding Jobs, Simply Cannot Work Up To Age 70.”**

**Max Richtman, President And CEO Of The National Committee To Preserve Social Security And Medicare, Criticized The Republican Study Committee’s Planned Increase Of The Full Retirement Age As “A Benefit Cut, Plain And Simple,” Further Adding That “Many Workers, Especially Those In Physically Demanding Jobs, Simply Cannot Work Up To Age 70.”** “In response to the framework’s publication, Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, said raising the full retirement age represents ‘a benefit cut, plain and simple.’ ‘Many workers, especially those in physically demanding jobs, simply cannot work up to age 70,’ Richtman said. “Job discrimination against older workers also prevents many people from working into their late 60s. The full retirement age has already been raised from 65 to 67. Republicans’ favorite solutions for Social Security’s financing challenges demand that beneficiaries themselves bear the burden.” [Think Advisor, [12/12/22](#)]

**Medicare Means Testing Has Also Been Criticized As Cutting Benefits For Those “Already Pay[ing] More For Medicare During Their Working Lives And/Or After Retirement,” While Fundamentally Undermining The Program’s “Universality And Integrity” That Has Allowed It To Maintain “Consistent, Broad-Based Support.”**

**Medicare Means Testing Has Been Criticized As Cutting Benefits For Those “Already Pay More For Medicare During Their Working Lives And/Or After Retirement,” Undermining The Medicare Guarantee.** “Some policymakers support ‘means testing’ or ‘income relating’ Medicare—making higher-income people pay more or get less—by raising premiums or cutting benefits for people above a certain income level. Some approaches would even lead to people getting no benefit at all from the dollars they already paid into Medicare. Such proposals threaten to undermine the Medicare guarantee—that those who contributed to the system will have access to high-quality health care as they get older. They also fail to recognize that older adults with higher incomes already pay more for Medicare during their working lives and/or after retirement.” [Medicare Rights Center, [10/07/21](#)]

**Additional Means Testing Of Medicare “Undermines [Its] Universality And Integrity” Which “Chips Away At The Consistent, Broad-Based Support For The Program And Could Even Cause Some To Drop Medicare Entirely, Raising Costs On The Middle- And Lower-Income Beneficiaries Who Rely On The Program.”** “More means testing also undermines the universality and integrity of Medicare. By denying people the benefit they have been promised and that they’ve been contributing to, means testing undermines the Medicare guarantee. This chips away at the consistent, broad-based support for the program and could even cause some to drop Medicare entirely, raising costs on the middle- and lower-income beneficiaries who rely on the program.” [Medicare Rights Center, [10/07/21](#)]

**Several House Republicans, Including Committee Leaders And House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Have Said They Will Likely Use A Future Debt Limit Deadline To Extract Policy Concessions Such As An Increase To The Eligibility Age Of Social Security And Medicare.**

**In October 2022, Then-Presumptive House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Suggested Republicans Would Use A Debt Limit Deadline As “Leverage To Force Spending Cuts,” Including Potential Cuts To Medicare And Social Security.**

October 2022: House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Ca), The Presumptive House Speaker In The Next Congress, Has Said House Republicans Would Use A Debt Limit Deadline As “Leverage To Force Spending Cuts,” Including Potential Cuts To Medicare And Social Security, Stating, “There Comes A Point In Time Where, Okay, We’ll Provide You More Money, But You Got To Change Your Current Behavior.” “House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said that if Republicans win control of the House the GOP will use raising the debt limit as leverage to force spending cuts — which could include cuts to Medicare and Social Security — and limit additional funding to Ukraine. ‘You can’t just continue down the path to keep spending and adding to the debt,’ the California Republican told Punchbowl News in a recent interview. ‘And if people want to make a debt ceiling [for a longer period of time], just like anything else, there comes a point in time where, okay, we’ll provide you more money, but you got to change your current behavior.’” [Washington Post, [10/18/22](#)]

**When Pushed On If Entitlement Programs Would Be A Part Of Debt Ceiling Discussions, McCarthy Said He Didn’t Want To “Predetermine” Anything.** “Pressed on whether changes to the entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security were part of the debt ceiling discussions, McCarthy said he would not ‘predetermine’ anything.” [Washington Post, [10/18/22](#)]

**In October 2022, Current Ways And Means Chair And Former Ranking Member Of The House Budget Committee Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) Suggested Republicans Would Use A Debt Limit Deal To Force Changes To Social Security And Medicare.**

October 2022: Then-Ranking Member Of The House Budget Committee Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) Said “The Debt Limit Is Clearly One Of Those Tools That Republicans [...] Will Use To Make Sure That We Do Everything We Can To Make This Economy Strong,” In Discussing Possible Ways Republicans Will Force Changes To Social Security And Medicare. “The debt limit is clearly one of those tools that Republicans — that a Republican-controlled Congress — will use to make sure that we do everything we can to make this economy strong,’ said Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) , the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. He’s seeking the top GOP spot on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee but said if he doesn’t get it, he’ll remain in his Budget Committee position.” [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

January 2023: Rep. Smith Was Named Chairman Of The Ways And Means Committee, Where He Will “Gain A Powerful Gavel Overseeing Measures That Impact Federal Revenue And Spending, From The Tax Code And Trade Policy To Medicare And Social Security.” “Rep. Jason Smith, a self-proclaimed ‘firebrand’ preaching a populist image of the GOP, won the nomination to be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The 42-year-old Republican representing a rural Missouri district is set up to gain a powerful gavel overseeing measures that impact federal revenue and spending, from the tax code and trade policy to Medicare and Social Security.” [Roll Call, [01/09/23](#)]

## **In October 2022, Rep. Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-GA) Said Republicans’ “Main Focus” In The New Congress Has To Be Nondiscretionary Entitlement Programs And Suggested An Increase To The Eligibility Age Of Social Security Is Needed.**

October 2022: Rep. Earl “Buddy” Carter Said Republicans’ “Main Focus Has Got To Be On Nondiscretionary — It’s Got To Be On Entitlements.” “Social Security and Medicare need to be addressed in the near future, some of the lawmakers said. ‘Our main focus has got to be on nondiscretionary — it’s got to be on entitlements,’ Carter said.” [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

- **Rep. Carter Is A Member Of The House Budget Committee.** [U.S. House Budget Committee, accessed [02/08/23](#)]

September 2022: In An Interview With Punchbowl News, Rep. Carter Expressed The Need For An Increase To The Eligibility Age Of Social Security, Stating, “This Is Something We’ve Got To Have The Appetite To Do. We’ve Got To Look At Future Generations And Say, ‘okay, Look, The Average Age People Are Living Is Increasing””:

Here’s Carter on the need for Social Security reform:

“This is something we’ve got to have the appetite to do. We’ve got to look at future generations and say, ‘Okay, look, the average age people are living is increasing’...

“I am not suggesting anyone who’s on Social Security right now have their benefits cut. I’ll make that clear. I get it. I understand they paid into the system with the assurance that it’s going to be there for them, and I am committed to making sure that it is there for them.

“But there are ways that we can address it and make it sustainable. If we don’t do something, then it won’t be very long before Social Security is not going to be there for anyone. That’s the kind of deadlines we’re running, the kind of cliffs that we’re running up to that we’ve got to address before that happens.”

[Punchbowl News, [09/27/22](#)]

## **In October 2022, Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)—Now Chairman Of The House Budget Committee—Suggested Republicans Would Fight For An Increase To The Medicare And Social Security Eligibility Age In Future Budget Deals After Previously Stating In 2016 That Politicians Don’t Have The “Courage” To Talk About Cuts To The Programs.**

October 2022: Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX), A Member Of The House Budget Committee, Suggested Republicans Would Fight For An Increase To The Medicare And Social Security Eligibility Age In Future Budget Deals, Stating “Republicans Have A List Of Eligibility Reforms, And We Don’t Like The Tax Increases.” “A bipartisan negotiation on Social Security and Medicare would likely start with Democrats pushing for more revenue, while ‘Republicans have a list of eligibility reforms, and we don’t like the tax increases,’ Arrington said. He said an increase in the eligibility age for both programs would be a commonsense change.” [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

**During A 2016 Congressional Runoff Debate, Rep. Arrington Suggested Most Politicians Don't Have The "Courage" To Talk About Cuts To Medicaid And Social Security, Stating, "You Will Have The Considerations Of Adjusting Age And Means Testing And Other Policy Recommendations That Are Out There In The Marketplace, But Nobody Wants To Take This On."** Arrington: 'Well, let's be very clear, most politicians won't say this. They won't talk about it because they don't have the courage to talk about it, quite frankly. [...] 'This is an issue driving \$19 trillion dollars in debt along with Medicaid and Medicare. If we don't do something about it, we'll have more than \$19 trillion dollars in debt and that'll be the millstone around the necks of my kids and your grandkids, so we've gotta take that on. For my generation it'll be a very different look at social security. And you will have the considerations of adjusting age and means testing and other policy recommendations that are out there in the marketplace, but nobody wants to take this on. They don't have the courage to do it.' [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, [05/19/16](#)]

- **Arrington's Remarks Were Made During A Congressional Runoff Debate Between Him And Glen Robertson Who Had Mailed Flyers To Senior Voters Stating, "There's Nothing 'Courageous' About Stealing From Seniors. Tell Jodey Arrington Social Security Is Not Welfare, It's Your Money - Every Penny!"** "The topic of Social Security cropped itself in the congressional runoff just before early voting this past weekend after candidate Glen Robertson mailed flyers to senior voters. The text on the flyers read: 'Washington insider Jodey Arrington says it takes 'courage' to cut your Social Security. There's nothing 'courageous' about stealing from seniors. Tell Jodey Arrington Social Security is NOT welfare, it's your money - every penny!'" [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, [05/19/16](#)]

**January 2023: Rep. Arrington Was Selected To Serve As Chairman Of The House Budget Committee, Where He Identified Hopes To "Lead The Effort To Rein-In Spending, Reduce Our Debt, And Restore Fiscal Responsibility."** "Yesterday, Representative Jodey Arrington (TX-19) released the following statement after being selected to serve as the Chairman of the House Budget Committee for the 118th Congress: 'I am humbled by the confidence and trust of my colleagues to lead the effort to rein-in spending, reduce our debt, and restore fiscal responsibility in our nation's capital as Chairman of the House Budget Committee. With the national debt surpassing \$31 trillion and over 120% of our entire economy, I believe confronting our unsustainable debt is the greatest challenge of the 21st century.'" [U.S. Representative Jodey Arrington, [01/10/23](#)]

**In October 2022, Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) Voiced Support For Additional Means Testing Of Social Security And Medicare Beneficiaries, Stating "We Should Ensure That We Keep The Promises That Were Made To The People Who Really Need It, The People Who Are Relying On It."**

October 2022: Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) Voiced Support For Additional Means Testing To Help Decrease The Number Of People Seeking Benefits, Stating "We Should Ensure That We Keep The Promises That Were Made To The People Who Really Need It, The People Who Are Relying On It" And That "Some Sort Of Means-Testing Potentially Would Help To Ensure That We Can Do That." "We should ensure that we keep the promises that were made to the people who really need it, the people who are relying on it,' Smucker said. 'So some sort of means-testing potentially would help to ensure that we can do that.'" [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

**Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK), New Chair Of The Republican Study Committee, Has Joined House Republicans In Wanting To Use A Debt-Limit Deadline To "Enact Fiscally Conservative Legislation," Stating It Was "Obviously A Leverage Point" Later Admitting, "We Have No Choice But To Make Hard Decisions" When It Comes To Budget Cuts.**

**In October 2022, Rep. Kevin Hern, Then “Head Of The Republican Study Committee’s Budget And Spending Task Force,” Joined Other House Republicans In Suggesting A Debt-Limit Deadline Would Be An Opportunity To “Enact Fiscally Conservative Legislation,” Stating It Was “Obviously A Leverage Point.”** “Reps. Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), Buddy Carter (R-Ga.), and Lloyd Smucker (R-Pa.) are seeking the top spot on the Budget Committee if Smith gets the Ways and Means role. Those three agreed Republicans must use the debt-limit deadline to enact fiscally conservative legislation. Rep. Kevin Hern (R-Okla.), head of the Republican Study Committee’s Budget and Spending Task Force, also said the upcoming debt-limit deadline is ‘obviously a leverage point.’” [Bloomberg Government, [10/11/22](#)]

**In November 2022, Rep. Hern Was Selected As The New Chair Of The Republican Study Committee For The 118th Congress:**



Today, #RSC unanimously elected @repkevinhern to be Chairman for the 118th Congress.

Chairman-elect Hern previously led the budget and spending task force and as Chairman will be the leading voice in our fight to rein in the Democrats’ reckless spending.



11:24 AM · Nov 17, 2022

[Twitter, [11/17/22](#)]

**In January 2023, Rep. Hern Admitted “We Have No Choice But To Make Hard Decisions” In Cutting Government Spending, Adding That “Everybody Has To Look At Everything.”** “Others in the party have resurfaced more detailed plans to cut costs, including by raising the Social Security retirement age to 70, targeting younger Americans who have yet to obtain federal benefits. ‘We have no choice but to make hard decisions,’ said Rep. Kevin Hern (R-Okla.), the leader of the Republican Study Committee, a bloc of more than 160 conservative lawmakers that endorsed raising the retirement age and other changes last year. ‘Everybody has to look at everything.’” [The Washington Post, [01/24/23](#)]

**Additional House Republicans Have Stated “Everything Has To Be On The Table” When It Comes To Budget Cuts, With Some Going As Far As Suggesting Constituents Actually Want To Work Longer And That “If People Want To Work Longer, Maybe You Need To Give Them An Incentive To Do It.”**



**During A Meeting Of House Ways And Means Republicans, Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) Admitted Republicans Would “‘Get Thrown Out Of Office [If] We Told The Truth’ About Their Party’s Plans For Social Security” As He Discussed The Difficulty In Actually Cutting Social Security.**

During A 2022 Meeting Of Republican Members Of The House Ways And Means Committee, Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) Admitted Republicans Would “‘All Get Thrown Out Of Office [If] We Told The Truth’ About Their Party’s Plans For Social Security.” “That somewhat Zen-like pronouncement came from Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) during a recent video discussion of Social Security with Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Kelly warned that Republicans would ‘all get thrown out of office [if] we told the truth’ about their party’s plans for Social Security, calling it ‘political suicide.’” [The American Prospect, [10/25/22](#)]

Kelly Also Added That “The Things That Have To Be Done Would Ensure You Won’t Be Elected In The Next Round And Those That Would Come And Take Our Places Would Really Just Pull It Down Even Further.” [Republican House Ways & Means Committee, 06/29/22, [39:35](#)]

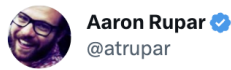
Kelly Also Said “The American People Aren’t Willing To Take The Medicine That’s Going To Be Needed To Sustain A Longer Lifestyle, I’m Talking About The United States As We Know It.” [Republican House Ways & Means Committee, 06/29/22, [40:15](#)]

**In January 2023, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) Said In An Interview With Fox News That “‘Everything Has To Be On The Table’” When It Comes To Spending Cuts.**

January 2023, In An Interview With Fox News Sunday, Rep. Jordan Said That “‘We Got A \$32 Trillion Debt. Everything Has To Be On The Table.’” "In an interview with ‘Fox News Sunday,’ Jordan responded to a question from host Shannon Bream about pressure from some Republicans to significantly cut government spending, which could include cuts to the military. The Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote that there will now be ‘great’ pressure to cut defense spending. Jordan blamed the skyrocketing national debt for needing to look everywhere for ways to cut spending. ‘We got a \$32 trillion debt. Everything has to be on the table,’ Jordan said, adding that the U.S. is ‘on pace to spend \$500 billion or \$600 billion just to pay interest on the debt.’” [Fox News, [01/08/23](#)]

**In January 2023, House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) Admitted That Instead Of Going After Defense Spending “It’s The Domestic Spending That We’re Going To Go After.”**

January 9, 2023: In An Interview With Fox News, Rep. Emmer Characterized Domestic Spending As “Out Of Control,” And Admitted That Instead Of Going After Defense Spending “It’s The Domestic Spending That We’re Going To Go After.”



Aaron Rupar  
@atrupar

"It's the domestic spending that we're gonna go after"  
-- Tom Emmer



9:20 AM · Jan 9, 2023 · 214.1K Views

[Twitter, [01/09/23](#)]

Rep. Emmer Is The Current Majority Whip Of The House Republican Caucus. [House.gov, accessed [02/08/23](#)]

**In January 2023, Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) Claimed That Republicans Won't "Touch" Current Beneficiaries Of Social Security And Medicare, While Admitting That Republicans Will Have To "Figur[e] Out How We're Going To Make Those Work."**

January 2023: While Rep. Chip Roy Claimed That Republicans Won't "Touch The Benefits That Are Going To People Relying On The Benefits Under Social Security And Medicare," He Admitted That "We All Have To Be Honest About Sitting At The Table And Figuring Out How We're Going To Make Those Work." "Republicans don't plan to alter benefits for current Social Security and Medicare recipients, according to Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas). 'What we have been very clear about is, we're not going to touch the benefits that are going to people relying on the benefits under Social Security and Medicare,' Roy said Sunday on CNN's 'State of the Union.' 'But we all have to be honest about sitting at the table and figuring out how we're going to make those work, how we're going to deal with defense spending and how we're going to deal with nondefense discretionary spending.'" [Huff Post, [01/09/23](#)]

**In January 2023, Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA) Suggested The Retirement Age Should Be Increased As His Constituents Tell Him "They Actually Want To Work Longer," And That "If People Want To Work Longer, Maybe You Need To Give Them An Incentive To Do It."**

January 2023: Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA) Was Recorded Suggesting The Social Security Age Of Retirement Should Be Increased As "People Come Up To [Him], And They Actually Want To Work Longer," Adding That "If People Want To Work Longer, Maybe You Need To Give Them An Incentive To Do It."



VIDEO: Republican Rep. Rick Allen thinks cutting Social Security is a good idea because "people want to work longer".

Allen has a net worth of \$52,127,252.



From Social Security Works  
3:16 PM · Jan 17, 2023 · 74.1K Views

[Twitter, [01/17/23](#)]

**In January 2023, Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL) Stated He Opposed A Balanced Budget Off The “Backs Of Our Troops And Our Military,” And That “If We Really Want To Talk About The Debt And Spending, It’s The Entitlement Programs.”**

January 2023: Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Fl) Stated He Was “All For A Balanced Budget” That Wasn’t Off The “Backs Of Our Troops And Our Military,” Going On To Add That “If We Really Want To Talk About The Debt And Spending, It’s The Entitlement Programs.” “Yet other Republicans are concerned that excluding the entitlements from the debate creates a greater threat to defense programs, which conservatives are vowing to protect. ‘I’m all for a balanced budget, but we’re not going to do it on the backs of our troops and our military,’ Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.) told Fox Business this week. ‘If we really want to talk about the debt and spending, it’s the entitlement programs.’” [The Hill, [01/12/23](#)]