

ONE OF THESE ENTITLEMENTS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Social Security Administration
- **FUMBLE:** \$5.7 billion
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Pass H.R. 918, the Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act of 2015

For some reason the federal government treats certain entitlement programs (SSDI, UI, and TAA) the same. UI is for jobless workers who seek re-employment. TAA provides federally funded benefits to workers who lost their jobs due to trade and who have also exhausted their UI benefits. SSDI, on the other hand, is only for individuals who cannot perform substantial work because of a medical impairment that is expected to last for at least a year.

SSDI benefits should be for those who truly cannot work, not for people who can work and therefore qualify for TAA or UI. However, in FY 2010 at least 117,000 people received SSDI and UI benefits simultaneously.¹⁷² In other words one part of the federal government considered them medically impaired and unable to work while another considered them to be temporarily unemployed and looking for a job. GAO estimates the overlapping cash benefits paid to these recipients totaled more than \$281

million from DI and more than \$575 million from UI.¹⁷³

RECOVERY

There are many ways to fix this problem. One way is for Congress to eliminate the concurrent benefit of SSDI and UI payments, which would save \$2 billion over ten years.¹⁷⁴ If the concurrent receipt of SSDI, UI, and TAA was eliminated, the savings would be \$5.7 billion over ten years.¹⁷⁵ President Obama suggested reducing the SSDI benefit in any month that UI benefits are also received to eliminate the duplicate payment. The estimated ten-year savings of the President's proposal are just over \$2 billion.¹⁷⁶ Congress should analyze all of these plans and select a way forward that eliminates duplication and saves taxpayer money.

For more information, please visit:

[House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means: Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act of 2015](#)

[GPO: S. 499 The Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act of 2015](#)