

Resolution No. 618-2025

By Council Member Slife

FOR ADOPTION
May 12, 2025

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Opposing closing local Social Security Administration offices, opposing state and federal cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits, and supporting Congressional Bills “Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act”, “Protecting Americans Social Security Data Act” and “The Social Security Expansion Act”.

WHEREAS, neighborhood Social Security Administration (SSA) offices and employees have faithfully served the public in communities across the country since 1935; and

WHEREAS, Social Security benefits are the best protection against falling into poverty for Americans since the inception of the SSA in 1935; and

WHEREAS, local Social Security offices, staffed with trained civil servants, provide service to millions of Americans each year, in person and by telephone; and

WHEREAS, 20 percent of staff in local SSA offices are veterans; and

WHEREAS, 9.7 million of Americans receiving Social Security benefits are veterans who, along with their families, depend on monthly checks from Social Security for housing and food; and

WHEREAS, older adults, including thousands of veterans and their families, are the fastest growing population of homeless; and

WHEREAS, more than 11,000 Americans reach retirement age each day; and

WHEREAS, because staffing at the SSA has fallen to a 50 year low while workloads have increased, this Council supports robust staffing in local offices to serve the public in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration plans to cut SSA staff dramatically which would take federal tax dollars from this community and transfer those dollars to billionaires by reducing their taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has already announced the closure of dozens of neighborhood Social Security offices due to cost cutting; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans depend on nearby SSA offices to file for benefits, resolve problems with social security payments, obtain work records, generate social security numbers, provide replacement social security cards, obtain income and award letters, and obtain applications for retirement, disability and supplemental security income; and

WHEREAS, while more than 79 million Americans receive Medicaid, the 2025 Congressional House budget resolution proposes steep cuts in Medicaid to provide tax breaks for the wealthiest 1% of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Medicare serves more than 68 million Americans but is targeted for cutbacks by the Trump Administration in order to reduce taxes for American billionaires; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Resolution No. 618-2025

Section 1. That this Council opposes closing local Social Security Administration offices.

Section 2. That this Council opposes state and federal cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits.

Section 3. That this Council supports Congressional Bills “Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act”, “Protecting Americans Social Security Data Act” and “The Social Security Expansion Act”.

Section 4. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the United States Congress.

Section 5. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

CS:rns

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READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on MAY 12, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR