



CONGRESSWOMAN
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OREGON'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Modernize SSI Stipends Act

The *Modernize SSI Stipends Act* would align Supplemental Security Income Personal Needs Allowances (PNAs) and accompanying state supplementary payments (SSPs) with current economic realities to ensure our most vulnerable—seniors and those with severe disabilities—can age with dignity and greater autonomy.

Although medical facilities, like nursing homes, provide health care, shelter, and food to those they care for, they do not cover the cost of items like clothing, toiletries, or a birthday card for a family member. To allow residents over the age of 65 or with severe disabilities with limited financial resources afford these basic items, the Social Security Administration provides Supplemental Security Income PNAs, which states can supplement with SSPs. SSI PNAs are what helps them afford the basics that support connection, comfort, and independence.

Unfortunately, Congress has not updated these allowances since 1987 and unlike other SSI beneficiaries, the people who rely on PNAs do not receive cost-of-living adjustments. As prices have risen over the decades, their already limited resources have stretched even thinner. We have a responsibility to fix that.

The *Modernize SSI Stipends Act* takes two important steps to meet this moment:

- It increases the baseline PNA amount to account for nearly four decades without an update, ensuring seniors and people with severe disabilities can meet their basic needs.
- It keeps PNAs aligned with economic realities by indexing payments to inflation and passing those increases through to SSPs.

Everyone deserves to age with freedom and a solid foundation of support. This bill moves us closer to that promise.

This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representatives Dexter (D-OR) and Representative Carey (D-OH).

Supporting Organizations: AARP, Justice in Aging, Long Term Care Community Coalition, Medicare Rights Center, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Center for Medicare Advocacy, and National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.