

Eliminating the Marriage Penalty in SSI Act

Background

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal income supplement program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled individuals with limited income and resources meet basic needs.
- Currently, benefits for a married couple, both of whom receive SSI and have no other income, amount to 25 percent less than the total they would receive if they were living together, but not as husband and wife.
- For example, if each person receives \$841 per month, they will receive \$1,261 together after marriage.
- The federal government should not penalize individuals with disabilities for getting married.

Summary

This bill excludes a spouse's income and resources when determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and disregards marital status when calculating the SSI benefit amount, for an adult who has a diagnosed intellectual or developmental disability.

Endorsements

Autism Speaks
Autism Society of America
Global Down syndrome Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers

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