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## CRFB's Lorenzen To Testify Before Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee

February 24, 2015

Ed Lorenzen, senior policy advisor for the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, is to testify Wednesday before the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee on maintaining the solvency of the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The hearing will take place at 2 p.m. in B-318 Rayburn House Office Building.

Without congressional action, the trust fund will be depleted next year. The president has proposed reallocating money from the Old Age fund to bolster the disability fund. A House rule requires reforms improving Social Security solvency before such a transfer can occur. Lorenzen will explain how previous Congresses have dealt with this issue and the importance of taking reform steps.

In recent days, CRFB has released several products to help our readers learn more about SSDI and the reallocation:

- **Testimony: Maintaining the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund's Solvency.** In his testimony, Lorenzen will explain the history of reallocations, discuss what precedent exists for accompanying reallocation with other reforms, and present lessons from the most recent reallocation legislation in 1994. Lorenzen will also explain the financial state of the current Social Security system –with regard to the disability and old age programs – and demonstrate why a long-term reallocation not accompanied by reforms could delay pressure on policymakers to address the broader Social Security shortfall until it is too late to act. With this in mind, Lorenzen's testimony concludes that the looming depletion of the DI trust fund should serve as an impetus to pursue comprehensive Social Security reform. Read the testimony [here](#).

- **Blog: Dispelling Common Myths in the SSDI Debate.** In this piece, CRFB disproves several widespread notions regarding the SSDI program and the reallocation debate. Specifically, CRFB debunks myths about the role of fraud in the SSDI program, the allegedly routine nature of "clean reallocations," the sources of growth in the programs, and the true nature of the recently passed House rule on reallocation. Read the blog [here](#).



- **Op-Ed: Kolbe and Stenholm, Congress Can't Dodge Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund's Approaching Insolvency.** In this article, former Congressmen and CRFB board members Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) and Charlie Stenholm (D-TX) explain why Congress can't dodge the problems facing the disability insurance program. They argue that the imminent depletion of the Social Security Disability Insurance trust fund is a stark reminder of the need to address the structural imbalance in the entire Social Security system. It urges a comprehensive approach that would address the Social Security system rather than putting off a politically charged issue. Read the op-ed [here](#).

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