



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## A Helping Hand for MO Seniors

### *Eliminating the State Tax on Social Security Benefits*

One issue that I feel needs to be addressed in the next legislative session is the unfair tax on senior citizens' Social Security benefits. There are a quarter of a million

Missourians whose hard-earned money is being unfairly taxed by the government. Having to pay for food, housing, utilities and health care needs is hard enough on a limited income. But state government is making it even more financially unfeasible for senior citizens to meet their daily



needs by taxing them yet again on the money they already earned.

For those who file as an individual with a total income that exceeds \$25,000, or they file a joint return and their total income exceeds \$32,000, they pay taxes on their social security benefits. Social Security benefits were not originally taxed but because Missouri's income tax is directly tied to the federal tax code, changes in 1984 resulted in a Missouri state income tax on those benefits. Currently, Missouri is one of only 15 states in the country that tax Social Security benefits.

Most financial advisors say that retirees will need about 70 to 80 percent of their work income to live comfortably after they retire. Social Security only brings in about 40 percent of an average wage earner's income, and for most retirees, 6 percent of that goes

back to the state. This is not fair. After having paid money into the system for decades, retired seniors deserve to get the benefits they were promised all along.

By eliminating the tax on Social Security benefits, the state of Missouri would put



approximately \$100 million into the pockets of seniors, helping them meet the ever increasing costs of prescription drugs or allowing them to afford one extra gift for a grandchild.

The tax on Social Security benefits is a tax we can afford to live without. Through recent reforms in state law, our economy is now thriving. This upswing can be seen in significant job growth, a booming market, and state government's budget surplus. In the upcoming session, I plan on introducing legislation to stop unnecessarily taxing senior citizens on their Social Security benefits.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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