

No Crypto in Social Security Act

Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)

Background: In 2025, only 14 percent of Americans reported owning cryptocurrencies, and 60 percent report that they would never own crypto. Crypto’s low uptake stems from its volatility and riskiness. For example, a survey found that 63 percent of Americans have little to no confidence that the current methods of crypto investment are reliable or safe.

Despite the risks crypto poses, President Trump has promised to make the U.S. the “crypto capital of the world.” Since returning to office, President Trump pardoned Changpeng Zhao, the founder of Binance, after he was convicted of allowing crypto to flow to terrorist groups and other criminals. Under President Trump’s watch, various federal financial regulators also have dropped lawsuits and investigations against some of the largest, most dubious crypto companies that allegedly violated investor protections and other federal laws. In May 2025, the Department of Labor (DOL) rescinded guidance that warned employers about the risks of crypto investments in 401(k) plans. Further, in August 2025, President Trump signed an executive order to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission and DOL to make it easier for employer-sponsored retirement plans to invest in crypto. At the same time, President Trump and his family have enriched themselves through their crypto ventures, which have increased the President’s family’s net worth by more than \$1.4 billion over the past year.

Problem: In 1935, then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the *Social Security Act* into law, which established the Social Security program. It directed the Secretary of Treasury to invest a portion of the Trust Funds only in “interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as both to principal and interest by the United States” (e.g., bonds). Since then, the Trust Funds’ holdings have grown to \$2.56 trillion as of January 2026, and they invest solely in U.S. bonds, which ensures that Social Security is able to provide benefits to Americans in full and on time. However, given President Trump’s efforts to integrate cryptocurrencies further into the U.S. financial system, the Social Security Trust Funds must be safeguarded to ensure cryptocurrencies never are an allowable asset.

Solution: Social Security is a bedrock promise that hardworking Americans who pay into the program will earn their retirement and not have to worry about whether there will be enough food on their tables, a roof over their heads, or medicine in their cabinets as they grow older. If the Social Security Trust Funds were allowed to invest in crypto, any downturn in the crypto market could create huge losses for seniors, and people with disabilities and their families, disrupting Social Security’s promise. For example, the value of the crypto market has dropped from more than \$4.2 trillion in October 2025 to \$2.3 trillion in March 2026—more than a 45 percent decrease in market value in five months. Additionally, if the Social Security Trust Funds were allowed to invest in crypto—including the President’s crypto ventures—taxpayer dollars could further enrich him and his family. The *No Crypto in Social Security Act* would amend Section 201(d) of the *Social Security Act* to ensure that the Social Security Trust Funds never invest in cryptocurrencies, preventing this risky asset from backing Americans’ retirement funds and blocking the President from further lining his own pockets.

Endorsements: Social Security Works, Social Security Works, Alliance for Retired Americans, Americans for Financial Reform, Consumer Federation of America, Public Citizen, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, American Federation of Teachers, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Strengthen Social Security Coalition.