

Resolution # 11

Social Security Needs a Permanent Fix

WHEREAS, after four years of Congressional inaction since our last Convention, the Social Security Trust Fund, on which millions of Americans rely for their Social Security benefits, has continued its steady depletion toward insolvency; and

WHEREAS, according to new estimates from Social Security's Chief Actuary, without changes to the Social Security system, the retirement trust fund will be insolvent in *just seven years* – by the fourth quarter of 2032 – at which point benefits will be cut automatically by 24 percent across the board. Obviously, Social Security's solvency is now an urgent crisis; and

WHEREAS, the last major fix to Social Security came in 1983. Congress has always found a reason to kick the can down the road as financial pressures continued to mount.

Obviously, this vital safety net for America's seniors must be protected at all costs.

American seniors and workers, including our young people just entering the workforce, deserve an answer. We need a permanent fix once and for all; and

WHEREAS, the TWU delegates in 2021 endorsed a plan that sought to fix the problem by changing the Cap Formula for payroll deduction for employers and employees. Under that plan, the payroll taxes that fund Social Security would be charged only to an earner's first \$176,100 in earnings in 2025. The plan then would institute a payroll tax split between employers and employees on all incomes above \$400,000, with no changes in payroll taxes on income between \$176,100 and \$400,000. This new formula would target only top earners, with the vast majority of all Americans feeling no pinch at all; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of another plan that does not negatively impact TWU Members coming from the current leaders in Congress, we, the delegates to this Convention, believe that the only plan on the table should be at the very least the starting point for negotiation in Congress.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the 27th Constitutional Convention of the Transport Workers Union of America urge the United States Congress to show political fortitude and courage to take immediate action to preserve the long-term financial viability of Social Security; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the TWU must stand fast against any “fix” to the Social Security Trust Fund that would target negative changes to Social Security primarily on workers in closing the solvency gap, including raising the retirement age, reducing future benefits, and changing how benefits and annual COLA’s are calculated in a downward direction.