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**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Tell the Government: Stop Garnishing Social Security

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We're taught that if we play by the rules, get an education, and keep up our skills, we won't age into poverty. But that's not true for the thousands of older Americans and people with disabilities whose student loan debts are following them into retirement.

[Sign the petition to stop the federal government from garnishing Social Security Benefits to pay off student loan debt.](#)

As students and recent graduates know, today's college debt burden can be crippling and a real threat to income security. What they don't know is that, if they don't pay it off by the time they start receiving Social Security benefits due to age or disability, the government can take it out of those benefits.

This issue has the potential to affect the future of every college graduate. That's why we've partnered with 20 other organizations to [convince the federal government to stop the practice of garnishing Social Security benefits](#), and provide instant relief to the thousands of older Americans and people with disabilities struggling to make ends meet in today's economy.

With the yesterday's U.S. Census Income and Poverty Report showing that the rate of senior poverty was virtually unchanged in 2014, despite a better economic outlook overall, it's clear that we don't need yet another mechanism that pushes more older Americans into poverty.

Currently around 160,000 elderly Social Security beneficiaries and an additional 83,000 people with disabilities between the ages of 50-65 are having their benefits garnished to pay off student loans. The government can garnish all benefits up to a \$750/month, a limit that puts an individual living alone at just over 75% of the federal poverty line.

The bottom line is that everyone having their benefits garnished is elderly and/or a person with a severe disability and the numbers are growing as the population rapidly ages. From 2002 through 2013, the number of individuals whose benefits were offset grew by roughly 500 percent, according to a [U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) report](#).

[Sign the petition now and join thousands of others working to put a stop to this practice.](#)

Thanks for all you do,

Kevin Prindiville

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**Connect with Us**

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