



Students for Saving Social Security

www.SecureOurFuture.org

Action Network

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2007

Contact: Ryan Lynch

(708) 829-1286

Ryan@SecureOurFuture.org

Senate Passes Bennett Amendment

Washington, D.C.—Students for Saving Social Security and other grassroots organizations can breathe a little easier now that the Senate has adopted the Bennett Amendment, a change to proposed legislation that would have regulated political speech and publication. Sponsored by Sen. Harry Reid, the legislation—part of the “Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007”—would have forced S4 and similar groups to track communications and issue quarterly reports on activity.

Sen. Bob Bennett's amendment modifies Section 220 of Reid's lobbying reform bill, which would have mandated registration and quarterly reports for grassroots causes in communication with 500 or more members of the public on policy issues. At the threat of criminal penalty, the unamended bill would have severely impacted the efforts of small nonprofits and bloggers in contact with the public. Yet because members of organizations would not have been considered members of the public, Section 220 would have allowed large membership groups to spend millions communicating with those members without reporting a cent.

S4 Director Mark Harris comments: “This is a victory for anyone who believes that every citizen has the right to free speech. As a grassroots group, the Bennett Amendment allows us to continue reaching out to the public, a necessary step if we're going to reform Social Security.”

“There were immediate questions of constitutionality with this bill,” adds Jo Jensen, deputy director of S4. “It is always preferable to make responsible changes beforehand rather than wait for the judicial system to make a fix, and this is especially the case when it comes to the First Amendment.”

The S4 Action Network is a 501(c)(4) non-partisan, membership organization on college campuses advocating for Social Security reform through personal ownership. With 6,500 members and chapters in all fifty states, S4 is the largest student group dedicated to informing and mobilizing young Americans on the issue of entitlement reform.

###

Students for Saving Social Security

Action Network

<http://www.SecureOurFuture.org>