



Students for Saving Social Security  
*www.SecureOurFuture.org*

Contact:  
Ben Ferguson  
(901) 849-4102

July 15, 2005

## **Students Given Cold Shoulder By Senator Bill Nelson**

*Students for Saving Social Security members told Senator Nelson will not consider giving young Americans ownership and choice over Social Security.*

Washington D.C. –Students for Saving Social Security, a non-partisan student group with over 155 chapters in more than 40 states nationwide, stormed the Upper Senate Park at 12:00 p.m. today to advocate for personal ownership over their retirement.

The students served snow cones as part of their effort to keep pressure for real reform on key members of the Senate Finance Committee. A blizzard of students blanketed the park with an ice sculpture, snow cones and other weather-related themes.

Following the storm, students met with members of the Senate Finance Committee to discuss their concerns about Social Security including Senator Bill Nelson's staff.

“We were very excited for the opportunity to meet with Senator Nelson's staff and discuss taking ownership of our retirements,” said Paul Silivinos, a member of SecureOurFuture.org from Pensacola, Florida. “Unfortunately, from the very beginning we were told that personal accounts were a non-starter with Senator Nelson.”

“*Students for Saving Social Security* came to discuss Social Security reform, instead we got the cold shoulder. This is exactly what's wrong with Congress today,” added Ben Ferguson, a senior at University of Mississippi and Communications Director for Secureourfuture.org. “Even good men like Senator Nelson admit that there's a problem, but will not propose a solution, while ruling out what's best for young people.”

“It's time for politicians to listen to average Americans and not just special interests,” continued Patrick Wetherille, co-founder of SecureOurFuture.org. “Young Americans are the single group that will be most affected by reform, but powerful lobbies will do anything to marginalize us from the debate.”

SSSS is a non-partisan, grassroots organization on college campuses advocating for Social Security reform through personal ownership. As the largest student group tackling the issue, SecureOurFuture.org is leading the charge to inform and mobilize young Americans to advocate for reform.

Co-founder Jonathan Swanson, a Yale University senior said, “Congress continues to let a dark cloud hang over the future of young Americans. Senators must warm to personal accounts or today’s generation will be faced with a cold future.”

###