

GEORGIA

Women rely on Social Security more than men do.

- ✓ In Georgia, 17% of adults receive Social Security benefits, including 19% of women and 15% of men. About 597,000 women, 430,000 men and 96,000 children rely on Social Security benefits in the state. (Social Security Administration and U.S. Census Bureau)
- ✓ Women represent 60% of all people 65 and older in Georgia who rely on Social Security benefits. (Social Security Administration)

Social Security is important for the economic security of elderly women.

- ✓ Without Social Security, 55% of elderly women in Georgia would be poor. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)

Social Security is more than a worker retirement program.

- ✓ Many Social Security recipients in Georgia are not retired workers. They receive benefits either as the widow or widower, spouse or child of a worker, or as a disabled worker. The overwhelming majority of these 471,000 beneficiaries are women and children. (Social Security Administration)

Widows would experience enormous cuts under the leading privatization proposal.

- ✓ The typical recipient of a Social Security widow's benefit in Georgia receives \$793 per month (\$9,516 per year). According to the Congressional Budget Office, under Plan 2 of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, today's kindergarteners are projected to receive 45% less than they are promised under current law, even when the proceeds from their private accounts are included in the total. If such a cut were to take effect currently, the typical widow in Georgia would receive only \$436 per month (\$5,232 per year), an amount equal to only 61% of the poverty line. (Social Security Administration and Congressional Budget Office)

The Georgia economy will lose a significant amount if Social Security benefits are cut.

- ✓ In 2002, \$10.8 billion flowed into the Georgia economy through Social Security benefits. If the cuts expected under Plan 2 for today's kindergarteners were to take effect currently, Georgia would lose \$4.9 billion per year, even including the proceeds from private accounts. This amount is equivalent to 18% of state government expenditures in fiscal year 2002 (state government expenditures include money generated from state funds, federal funds, and the sale of state bonds). (Social Security Administration, Congressional Budget Office, National Association of State Budget Officers)