

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2534

To provide that the public debt limit shall not affect timely payment of certain Social Security, public debt, defense, veterans, and Medicare obligations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2011

Mr. GOWDY (for himself and Mr. SOUTHERLAND) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide that the public debt limit shall not affect timely payment of certain Social Security, public debt, defense, veterans, and Medicare obligations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring America’s
5 Promises Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIMELY PAYMENT IN FULL OF CERTAIN OBLIGA-**
2 **TIONS NOTWITHSTANDING THE PUBLIC DEBT**
3 **LIMIT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in section 3101 of title
5 31, United States Code, shall be construed to have the
6 effect of—

7 (1) precluding or otherwise limiting timely re-
8 demption of obligations owed to the Federal Old-Age
9 and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund or the Federal
10 Disability Insurance Trust Fund to the extent nec-
11 essary to provide for timely payment in full of bene-
12 fits payable from such Trust Funds;

13 (2) otherwise precluding or limiting timely pay-
14 ment in full of benefits payable from such Trust
15 Funds;

16 (3) otherwise precluding or limiting timely pay-
17 ment in full of amounts necessary to carry out the
18 authority of the Department of the Treasury pro-
19 vided in section 3123 of title 31, United States
20 Code, to pay with legal tender the principal and in-
21 terest on debt held by the public;

22 (4) otherwise precluding or limiting timely pay-
23 ment in full of amounts the Secretary of Defense
24 (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case
25 of the Coast Guard) determines to be necessary to
26 continue to provide pay and allowances (without

1 interruption) to members of the Army, Navy, Air
2 Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including
3 reserve components thereof, who perform active serv-
4 ice;

5 (5) otherwise precluding or limiting timely pay-
6 ment in full of amounts the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs determines necessary to provide the benefits
8 and programs under title 38, United States Code, to
9 veterans and other individuals; or

10 (6) otherwise precluding or limiting timely pay-
11 ment in full of obligations owned under the Medicare
12 program under title XVIII of the Social Security
13 Act.

14 (b) OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT IN
15 OTHER RESPECTS.—The limitation on public debt under
16 section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply
17 with respect to matters other than matters affected by
18 subsection (a) as if subsection (a) had not been enacted.

19 (c) TERMINATION.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall
20 cease to have effect after December 31, 2012.

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