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- **Sherrod Brown supported the Simpson-Bowles Commission.** “Brown: Supports streamlining and consolidating existing farm programs, ending government subsidies for the five biggest oil companies, closing tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas, and ending special tax breaks for Wall Street hedge fund managers. Backs the Simpson-Bowles commission approach, which would cut \$3 in spending for every \$1 in added revenue.” (Sabrina Eaton, “Sherrod Brown and Josh Mandel have significant differences on the issues: here’s where they stand,” [Cleveland.com](#), 10/13/12)
- **VIDEO: In a 2012 debate, Chuck Todd claimed Brown had been “supportive” of Simpson-Bowles and Brown admitted he had “spoken positively” of the commission.** ([CSPAN](#), "Ohio Senate Debate", 10/25/12)
- ***The Nation*: “Simpson and Bowles want to: Raise the retirement age to 69. Slash retirement benefits by up to 35 percent for middle-income earners. Reduce Social Security’s annual cost-of-living adjustments. Cut healthcare benefits, including Medicare, and raise fees for veterans.”** “On December 1, President Obama’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is expected to make a pitch for addressing the nation’s deficit and debt challenges by attacking the retirement security of working Americans. The commission co-chairs—former Republican Senator Alan Simpson and former Clinton White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles—have made no secret about their determination to serve Wall Street speculators rather than the victims of the speculators. Simpson and Bowles want to: • Raise the retirement age to 69. • Slash retirement benefits by up to 35 percent for middle-income earners. • Reduce Social Security’s annual cost-of-living adjustments. • Cut healthcare benefits, including Medicare, and raise fees for veterans.” (John Nichols, “Before Simpson and Bowles Say: ‘Cut Social Security,’ Tell Congress to ‘Strengthen It!’” [The Nation](#), 11/30/10)
  - ***The Nation*: “Make no mistake: the Simpson-Bowles plan is a scheme to begin the process of privatizing Social Security and Medicare.”** (John Nichols, “Before Simpson and Bowles Say: ‘Cut Social Security,’ Tell Congress to ‘Strengthen It!’” [The Nation](#), 11/30/10)
- **Under the Simpson-Bowles Commission, the retirement age would eventually be 69.** “Simpson-Bowles makes three main changes to Social Security. It increases the taxable maximum on income to 90 percent of all income, which raises \$238 billion over the next decade. It uses a different measure of inflation to slow cost-of-living adjustments. It raises

the retirement age to 68 in 2050 and 69 in 2075.” (Ezra Klein, “11 shocking, true facts about Simpson-Bowles,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/4/12)

- **The 2010 Simpson-Bowles Commission proposed cutting Social Security benefits.** “Bowles-Simpson includes a variety of Social Security benefit cuts but only one measure to raise Social Security taxes, illustrating its lack of balance. It would cut Social Security benefits in three ways... Increasing the Retirement Age... Changing the Benefit Formula... Reducing Cost-of-Living Adjustments.” (Kathy Ruffing and Paul N. Van de Water, “Bowles-Simpson Social Security Proposal Not a Good Starting Point for Reforms,” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), 2/17/11)
  - **The Commission proposed “cuts to Social Security,” including a reduced cost-of-living adjustment.** “Erskine Bowles is widely known in Washington policy circles as a co-chair of President Obama's deficit commission, along with former Senator Alan Simpson. The report that he and Simpson co-authored is held up as the basis for a grand bargain on the deficit. This report has riled many people across the political spectrum, in part because of its cuts to Social Security, the most immediate of which is a reduction in the annual cost of living adjustment (Cola). Reduced Cola would amount to a benefit cut of close to 3% for a typical retired worker. Since the median income for households of people over age 65 is just \$31,000, this would be a big hit to a segment of the population that is already struggling.” (Dean Baker, “Erskine Bowles: an object lesson in Wall Street influence on Washington,” [The Guardian](#), 9/10/12)
- **The Commission proposed freezing Medicare payments to physicians and cutting Medicare spending by 1%.** “Reduce federal health care spending. Focus Medicare payments to physicians on quality of care instead of quantity. Freeze physician payments through 2013. Institute a 1% cut in 2014. Increase funding to reduce Medicare fraud. Reduce excess Medicare payments. Coordinate Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Reduce medical malpractice costs. The Affordable Care Act incorporated many of the suggestions. Reduce spending in Medicaid and other programs.” (Kimberly Amadeo, “Simpson-Bowles Plan Summary, History, and Whether It Would Work,” [The Balance](#), 11/28/21)
- **The Commission proposed “cuts to social security,” including a reduced cost-of-living adjustment.** “Erskine Bowles is widely known in Washington policy circles as a co-chair of President Obama's deficit commission, along with former Senator Alan Simpson. The report that he and Simpson co-authored is held up as the basis for a grand bargain on the deficit. This report has riled many people across the political spectrum, in part because of its cuts to social security, the most immediate of which is a reduction in the annual cost of living adjustment (Cola). Reduced Cola would amount to a benefit cut of close to 3% for a typical retired worker. Since the median income for households of people over age 65 is just \$31,000, this would be a big hit to a segment of the population that is already struggling.” (Dean Baker, “Erskine Bowles: an object lesson in Wall Street influence on Washington,” [The Guardian](#), 9/10/12)

- AFL-CIO: “With this report the [Simpson-Bowles] Deficit Commission once again tells working Americans to ‘Drop Dead’ ... slashing Social Security and Medicare.”** “The White House panel on reducing the deficit meanwhile has released its final report calling for widespread cuts to Social Security and Medicare. Panel co-chairs Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson want to raise the retirement age for Social Security to 69 by 2075, decrease the cost of living benefits for Social Security recipients, impose new limits on the Medicare health insurance program, and end several middle-class tax breaks while reducing income taxes for corporations. The panel will hold a vote on Friday on whether to send the recommendations to Congress. Labor unions and progressive economists have blasted the plan. In a statement, Richard Trumka of the AFL-CIO said, ‘With this report the Deficit Commission once again tells working Americans to ‘Drop Dead.’ No proposal on fiscal issues is serious that leaves the Bush tax cuts for the rich in place while raising taxes on the middle class and slashing Social Security and Medicare.’” (“Deficit Panel Releases Proposals to Cut Spending Ahead of Vote,” [Democracy Now](#), 12/2/10)
- The proposal would cut benefits for the vast majority of Social Security recipients, weaken the link between a recipients benefits and past earnings, and fail to protect the most low-income workers from benefit cuts.** “The Social Security proposal that the co-chairs - former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Republican Senator Alan Simpson - included in their overall plan to reduce long-term budget deficits would generate nearly two-thirds of its Social Security savings over 75 years - and four-fifths of its savings in the 75<sup>th</sup> year - from benefit cuts (as opposed to revenue increases). It would cut benefits for the vast majority of Social Security recipients, weaken the link between a recipients benefits and past earnings (which could undermine public support for the program), and, despite the claims of the co-chairs, fail to protect most low-income workers from benefit cuts. Most Social Security recipients would be further squeezed by the higher out-of-pocket costs that Bowles-Simpson proposes for those on Medicare.” (Kathy Ruffing & Paul N. Van De Water, “Bowles-Simpson Social Security Proposal Not a Good Starting Point for Reforms,” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), 2/17/11)