# Topicality

## Substantial

### Substantial = 50-100%

#### Substantial increase or decrease is 50 to 100 percent

UNEP 2

United nations environmental program, www.unep.org/geo/geo3/english/584.htm, October 1 2002, IE

Change in selected pressures on natural ecosystems 2002-32. For the ecosystem quality component, see the explanation of the Natural Capital Index. Values for the cumulative pressures were derived as described under Natural Capital Index. The maps show the relative increase or decrease in pressure between 2002 and 2032. 'No change' means less than 10 per cent change in pressure over the scenario period; small increase or decrease means between 10 and 50 per cent change; substantial increase or decrease means 50 to 100 per cent change; strong increase means more than doubling of pressure. Areas which switch between natural and domesticated land uses are recorded separately.

### Substantial = Qualitative

**Substantial cannot be determined by percentage tests**

**Leo 08**

[Kevin Leo J.D. Candidate, Spring 2008, Hastings College of the Law]. Hastings Business Law Journal Spring, 2008 4 Hastings Bus. L.J. 297 IE

In contrast, the court in Haswell v. United States held that spending over sixteen percent of an organization's time on lobbying was substantial. [n83](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.156249.8509902761&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1253667274610&returnToKey=20_T7405211855&parent=docview) The court found that applying a strict percentage test to determine whether activities are substantial would be inappropriate, since  [\*308]  such a test "obscures the complexity of balancing the organization's activities in relation to its objectives and circumstances in the context of the totality of the organization." [n84](http://www.lexisnexis.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/us/lnacademic/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.156249.8509902761&target=results_DocumentContent&reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1253667274610&returnToKey=20_T7405211855&parent=docview)

## Fiscal Redistribution

### Must be Rich to Poor

#### Fiscal redistribution must transfer from higher to lower income households

Coady & Le 20

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Although increasing income inequality has been observed in many countries, the varying experiences across countries, with inequality even decreasing in a sizeable share of countries, suggests that public policy and institutions play and important role in determining such outcomes.2 In this respect, fiscal redistribution (i.e., the transfer of income from higher to lower income households via tax and transfer schemes) has a key role to play in addressing income inequality. For instance, evidence from studies of fiscal redistribution shows that over threequarters of the difference in average disposable income inequality between advanced and Latin American countries (with the lowest and highest average disposable income inequality, respectively) is accounted for by differences in the extent of fiscal redistribution rather than by differences in market incomes (Bastagli, Coady and Gupta, 2015).

### Redistribution = Different

#### Redistribution must be a different from current distributions

Cambridge Dictionary N/D

Cambridge Dictionary is the most popular dictionary and thesaurus for learners of English. Definitions and meanings of words with pronunciations and translations. "Redistribution." Published by Cambridge Dictionary, no publication date. Available here: (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/redistribution) - AP

redistribution noun [ U ] US /ˌriː.dɪs.trəˈbjuː.ʃən/ UK /ˌriː.dɪs.trɪˈbjuː.ʃən/ the act of sharing something out differently from before, especially in a fairer way: He talked about economic justice and a redistribution of wealth. a redistribution of land to the people who need it

#### Currently wealth is already primarily held by the rich, meaning the aff must redistribute away from that trend

Statista Research Department 07/17/23

Statista Research Department 07/17/23 Statista utilizes over 200 experienced research experts and analysts to track the latest developments in current trends with content covering over 80,0000 topics."Wealth distribution in the United States in the first quarter of 2023." Published by Statista on July 17, 2023. Available here: ((https://www.statista.com/statistics/203961/wealth-distribution-for-the-us/#:~:text=In%20the%20first%20quarter%20of,percent%20of%20the%20total%20wealth.) - AP

In the first quarter of 2023, 69 percent of the total wealth in the United States was owned by the top 10 percent of earners. In comparison, the lowest 50 percent of earners only owned 2.4 percent of the total wealth.

### Must Tax Rich

#### Fiscal redistribution must tax the rich, this is key to negative ground according to this years topic paper

Bricker et al., 23

Brett Bricker, Will Katz, John Marshall and Jacob Wilkus are all co-authors on the 2023-2024 topic proposal for the fiscal redistribution/economic inequality NSDA policy topic. Brett Bricker is he Assistant Director of the KU debate team and teaches courses in debate and persuasion. William Katz is a graduate teaching assistant at the KU. John Marshall is a former KU debater and current coach for Greenhill. Jacob Wilkus is a former KU debater. "2023-2024 Topic Proposal: Economic Inequality." Published and available via the national Federation of State High School Associations in 2023. Available here: (https://www.nfhs.org/media/5919630/economic-inequality-paper.pdf) - AP

Contemporary tomes have been dedicated to understanding this important issue from

multiple perspectives. Economists, political scientists, legal scholars, philosophers, and people

from many other fields have discussed a wide range of causes and potential solutions to this

dilemma. Under our proposed topic, affirmative teams would advocate fiscal redistribution as

the solution to economic inequality. Quite simply, this means that affirmative would advocate for

a tax on the rich that transfers money to the poor. Affirmative teams would have plenty of

flexibility to focus on different policies, including but not limited to a universal basic income, a

federal job guarantee, a wealth tax, expanding social welfare programs, and increasing the

federal minimum wage. Negative teams will have a wide arsenal of arguments at their disposal,

such as arguments about workability, economic disruption, political feasibility, funding

tradeoffs, or alternative ways to address economic inequality without fiscal redistribution.

#### Fiscal redistribution must tax the rich and may only use congress, this years topic paper proves framers intent

Bricker et al., 23

Brett Bricker, Will Katz, John Marshall and Jacob Wilkus are all co-authors on the 2023-2024 topic proposal for the fiscal redistribution/economic inequality NSDA policy topic. Brett Bricker is he Assistant Director of the KU debate team and teaches courses in debate and persuasion. William Katz is a graduate teaching assistant at the KU. John Marshall is a former KU debater and current coach for Greenhill. Jacob Wilkus is a former KU debater. "2023-2024 Topic Proposal: Economic Inequality." Published and available via the national Federation of State High School Associations in 2023. Available here: (https://www.nfhs.org/media/5919630/economic-inequality-paper.pdf) - AP

Each resolution that we have designed requires the affirmative to fiscally redistribute

economic resources in the United States. The phrase fiscal redistribution is well-defined. It

requires a tax of the upper economic half of society, measured by income or wealth, and transfer

of economic resources. This dual requirement guarantees the negative ground based on agent

(Congress holds the power to tax) and based on distribution. We recommend that any resolution

chosen include the phrase “fiscal redistribution.”

### Fiscal redistribution must Be Progressive/Reduce Inequality

#### Redistribution must reduce inequality- taxes must be progressive.

Brewer, Professor of Economics 12**,** et al

(Mike, Monica Costa Dias, Research Fellow Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Jonathan Shaw, Research Fellow Institute for Fiscal Studies “Lifetime inequality and redistribution ,” October 2012, <https://ifs.org.uk/sites/default/files/output_url_files/wp1223.pdf> IE

Throughout, we use the term redistribution applied to tax and benefits systems to signify inequality reducing policies, which is achieved when the relative position of individuals at the bottom of the earned income distribution is improved by the tax and benefits system. Thus, for example, a pure flat tax rate would not be redistributive; instead, it is the progressivity of the tax system that makes it redistributive. A progressive tax system is one where the average tax rate (ATR) is increasing in earned equivalised income, where the ATR is the ratio of total family tax liability (net of benefits) to earned income.

### May be Deficit Spending

#### Fiscal redistribution is done through government expenditure, this includes tax extraction and Keynesian fiscal policy

Hicks & Swank 84

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Governments may affect the redistribution of income by a variety of means. They may do so fiscally; that is, by means of government expenditure and revenue flows. And they may do so normatively; that is, by means of preponderantly regulatory as opposed to monetary influences. They may do so directly; that is, by means of the net, direct, immediate (first-order) give and take of expenditure benefits and revenue burdens. They may also do so indirectly; that is, by relatively long-term and multi-stage processes, as when transfersto high-income persons employing low income household membersstimulate low-income employment and earnings. These four modes of governmental redistribution of income — fiscal and normative, direct and indirect — are cross-classified below to generate a typology of types of governmental redistribution. Four types result: 1. direct fiscal redistribution, exemplified by net, first-order shifts in income distributions resulting from government cash transfer, tax extraction, and so on; 2. indirect fiscal redistribution, exemplified by the relatively indirect, second-to-final-order impacts of (Keynesian) fiscal policy upon economic activity and, as a result, income dispersion; 3. direct normative redistribution, exemplified by the relatively direct (and intentional) impacts of regulatory policies in labor and other factor markets (e.g. open-shop or affirmative action legislation); and 4. indirect normative redistribution, exemplified by the more circuitous redistributive effects of property and contract law upon possession, exchange and, in effect, redistribution.

#### Keynesian fiscal policy includes deficit spending

Jahan et al., 14

Sarwat Jahan is an economist at the International Monetary Fund Chris Papageorgiou is a Deputy Division Chief in the IMF’s Strategy, Policy, and Review Department. Ahmed Saber Mahmud is the Associate Director of Applied Economics at Johns Hopkins University. "What Is Keynesian Economics?" Published by the International Monetary Fund: Finance & Development, Vol. 51(3). Published in September 2014. Available here: (https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2014/09/basics.htm#:~:text=Stabilizing%20the%20economy&text=For%20example%2C%20Keynesian%20economists%20would,is%20abundant%20demand-side%20growth.) - AP

Rather than seeing unbalanced government budgets as wrong, Keynes advocated so-called countercyclical fiscal policies that act against the direction of the business cycle. For example, Keynesian economists would advocate deficit spending on labor-intensive infrastructure projects to stimulate employment and stabilize wages during economic downturns. They would raise taxes to cool the economy and prevent inflation when there is abundant demand-side growth. Monetary policy could also be used to stimulate the economy—for example, by reducing interest rates to encourage investment. The exception occurs during a liquidity trap, when increases in the money stock fail to lower interest rates and, therefore, do not boost output and employment.

### Can be Any Kind of Spending

#### Fiscal redistribution can be a variety of expenditures, including taxation, transfers, and public spending

Okafor et al., 20

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Redistributive expenditure as a component of fiscal policy is a redistributive tool that governments have used to achieve some welfare objectives. One of these objectives is income inequality, prompting adopting the right fiscal policy mix to address the imbalance in income distribution. Sarantides and Kammas (2016) define fiscal redistribution as the efforts to reduce income inequality via taxation, transfers and public spending. Fiscal redistribution of income is undoubtedly a subset of overall fiscal policy. Lopez, Thomas, and Wang (2008) note that fiscal policy is an essential tool for allocating resources to ensure a balance between human capital, physical capital and natural capital. This is because the economy needs these three vital assets in the right mix for sustainable growth. Lopez et al. (2008) also note that tax policies and public spending profile determine the accumulation and depletion of these key assets.

## Federal Jobs Guarantee

### Universal & Permanent

#### A federal jobs guarantee must be universal and permanent

Shelly 21

Deirdre Shelly is the campaign director of the Sunrise Movement and a movment organizer at the National Domestic Workers Alliance. "What is A Federal Jobs Guarantee?" Published by the Sunrise Movement on March 5, 2021. Available here: (https://www.sunrisemovement.org/theory-of-change/what-is-a-federal-jobs-guarantee/) - AP

What is a job guarantee? The job guarantee is a federal government program to provide a good job to every person who wants one. The job guarantee is a long-pursued goal of the American progressive tradition. In the 1940s, labor unions in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) demanded a job guarantee. Franklin D. Roosevelt supported the right to a job in his never-realized “Second Bill of Rights.” Later, the 1963 March on Washington demanded a jobs guarantee alongside civil rights, understanding that economic justice was a core component of the fight for racial justice. Coretta Scott King went on to lead a grassroots movement for a job guarantee after her husband’s death. The job guarantee is bigger than just securing jobs for people in the short-term. It’s about permanently enshrining the right to dignified work as a fundamental human right. The right to good employment is uplifted in the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but this right has never been realized within the United States.

### Universal =/= Untargetted

#### Federal job guarantees can simultaneously be universal and target racial inequalities

Matthews 18

Dylan Matthews has since 2018 served as a senior correspondent and head writer for Future Perfect, Vox’s section that tells stories about people and institutions trying to do the most good for the world they can. "Job Guarantees, Explained." Published by Vox on April 24, 2018. Available here: (https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/6/16036942/job-guarantee-explained) - AP

In the wake of the 2016 election, liberal commentators have latched onto the job guarantee — an idea pushed by some left-wing economists for years — as a way to forge a cross-racial working-class coalition. They need a plan that appeals to both to the white Wisconsin and Michigan voters who switched from Obama to Trump and to black and Latino workers left behind by deindustrialization. The ideal plan would improve conditions for lower-income Americans while supporting Americans’ strong intuition that people should work to earn their crust. “A federal job guarantee is both universal — it benefits all Americans — and specifically ameliorative to entrenched racial inequality,” Slate’s Jamelle Bouie notes.

### Can be Targeted

#### Job guarantees can target specific demographics

Haim 21

David Haim was a researcher and Masters recipient from the Levy Economics Institute. "What Jobs should a Public Job Guarantee Provide? Lessons from Hyman P. Minsky." Published by the Levy Economics Institute in January 2021. Available here: (https://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp\_981.pdf) - AP

Minsky believed that a job guarantee should “target specific types of unemployed” (Minsky

1992a, 10) and must deal specifically “with youth and adult employment as well as the

provision of jobs for older adults” (Minsky 2008b, 345). He thought that the problem of youth

unemployment called for a specific agency, modeled after the NYA, for the target population

between 16 and 22 years of age. One of his ideas was to create a school aid program that

employed high school and college students as gym and recreational aids.

### Must use Minimum Wage

#### A federal jobs guarantee must use the minimum wage

Sturgess 16

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Unemployment is a chronic feature of capitalist economies, with a host of related ills such as poverty, personal and economic insecurity and social stigma. In much of the developed world, unemployment has never returned to the low levels present before the mid-1970s, and increasingly insecure and part-time work has replaced permanent, full-time employment. Even low official unemployment rates disguise large populations disconnected from paying work, akin to “the tip of the iceberg […] in a cold economy” (Okun, 1983). Over two million Australians are either officially unemployed, marginally connected to the labour market but desiring work or are underemployed (ABS, 2015; 2016). The policy referred to here as the Job Guarantee (JG), also known as the Employer of Last Resort and Buffer Stock Employment, is a proposal to address unemployment and underemployment directly, through the provision of a blanket offer of employment at the minimum wage for anyone willing and able to work. This thesis seeks to examine in detail the practicality and desirability of the JG as a solution to the problem of scarce and insecure employment.

### Can Have Higher Wages

#### Federal job guarantees can have higher wages and benefits – prefer this interpretation because its reflective of proposed legislation

Krieg 18

Gregory Kreig is a reporter for CNN. "Why a ‘federal jobs guarantee’ is gaining steam with Democrats." Published by CNN on April 26, 2018. Available here: (https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/26/politics/federal-jobs-guarantee-gaining-steam-democrats/index.html) - AP

“Under a federal jobs guarantee program, the U.S. government would guarantee a job with a living wage and good benefits to any resident who wants or needs one,” a draft proposal reads. Though still a work in progress, it would guarantee wages of at least $15 an hour, indexed to inflation by the program’s fourth year, offer retirement and health benefits on par with other federal employees, child care assistance and 12 weeks of paid family leave. The jobs listed include everything from park maintenance to construction work and home care. But there are also loftier ideals in play. The draft describes what would be a massive new entitlement as “more than simply an economic fix.” “People working under the federal job guarantee will be serving their communities and their country, uniting use together in a common purpose, rebuilding the social fabric of our nation,” it reads. The lefty wonks have their say

## Expand

#### Expansion includes adding parts

Merriam Webster N/D

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated is an American company that publishes reference books and is especially known for its dictionaries. It is the oldest dictionary publisher in the United States. "Expand." No publication date listed. Available here: (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/expand#:~:text=expand%2C%20amplify%2C%20swell%2C%20distend,business%20that%20expands%20every%20year) - AP

EXPAND, AMPLIFY, SWELL, DISTEND, INFLATE, DILATE mean to increase in size or volume. EXPAND may apply regardless of the manner of increase (such as growth, unfolding, addition of parts).

### Expand SS = Expand Benefits

#### Expanding Social Security requires including new revenues and increasing the benefits of the program

Rothstein 16

Jesse Rothstein is a professor of public policy and economics and Director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California-Berkeley. "Expand Social Security." Published by the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Published on October 31, 2016. Available here: (https://equitablegrowth.org/expand-social-security/) - AP

The solution is simple: Expand Social Security Fortunately, it is possible to dramatically expand retirement security without fixing the problems with employer-provided pensions and private savings. Social Security has worked for decades and can easily be scaled up to fill in the holes in the retirement puzzle. As a social insurance program, Social Security builds in protection against longevity and earnings risk, and shields retirees—most of whom have no interest in or capacity to participate in financial markets—from bad markets and unscrupulous or incompetent investment advisers. Its funding is not tied to the continued viability of any single employer, and while occasional adjustments are needed as demographic and economic realities diverge from earlier projections, these are small relative to the volatility faced by pension funds or private savings. Policymakers should therefore pursue a major expansion of Social Security. There are a number of attractive ways to do this. I articulate three principles that should guide such an expansion, then describe three options that would satisfy the following principles: Social Security benefits should be enough for retirees to live on, on their own The features that have made the program such a success to date, including its universality and its dedicated, untouchable financing stream, should be preserved The existing program’s long-term financing shortfall should be closed via new revenues rather than benefit cuts, with the pain of this offset by real, visible benefits in the form of higher payments to retirees The following three policy options are consistent with these principles Three policy changes to expand Social Security EXPAND THE PROGRAM VIA PROPORTIONATE INCREASES TO TAX RATES AND TO ALL RECIPIENTS’ BENEFITS A modest increase in the payroll tax rate of less than one percentage point—from 6.2 percent to 7.2 percent, respecting the current taxable earnings cap—on both workers and employers would finance a 15 percent benefit increase for all current and future retirees as well as survivors and disabled workers. This could (and should) be scaled to provide larger increases—for example, a 2 percentage point increase in the tax rate would finance a 30 percent increase. If disabled workers’ benefits were excluded from the expansion, the benefit increase would be larger, 18 percent per percentage point on the tax rate. ELIMINATE THE CURRENT TAXABLE EARNINGS CAP, AND SPLIT THE REVENUES AMONG INCREASING BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO PAY HIGHER TAXES, CLOSING THE FINANCING GAP, AND INCREASING BENEFITS FOR THE LOWEST EARNERS Earnings above $118,500 per year are exempt from Social Security taxes, specifically the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, or FICA, taxes. Only 6 percent of workers earn more than this amount, but the share of wages above the threshold has grown as these income earners have pulled away from the rest of the workforce.19 Eliminating the cap, without increasing benefits, would yield more than enough revenues to close the 75-year projected finance shortfall for Social Security and Social Security Disability Insurance.20 More consistent with the principles above would be to use some of the revenues to increase benefits for high earners in order to preserve the program’s universality while imposing a reasonable cap on the size of the individual benefit. Another portion should go toward increasing benefits for lower-earning recipients. This would help promote retirement security and would create a constituency to support the cap elimination. The remainder could still make a substantial down-payment toward eliminating the financing gap. If earnings were subject to taxes without a cap but non-wage income remained exempt, many high earners might reclassify their earnings as capital gains or business income. To prevent evasion while being consistent with the overall structure of the program, the FICA tax might be applied to all personal income above the taxable earnings cap, regardless of whether that income comes as earnings or in another form. This would raise dramatically more money, more than enough to close the entire financing gap and support larger benefit increases for low-income retirees. While a few very high-income individuals would face sharply increased tax bills under this proposal, dedicating the revenues to the Social Security trust fund, just as FICA taxes are today, would promote the tax increase’s political viability and protect it from attack. CREATE AN OPTIONAL EXTRA TIER OF SOCIAL SECURITY, INTO WHICH WORKERS COULD CONTRIBUTE IN ORDER TO PURCHASE EXTRA BENEFITS WHEN THEY RETIRE Some higher-income workers may want more retirement consumption than even an expanded Social Security benefit can support. As discussed above, pervasive market failures make private retirement saving very inefficient. The government can solve this problem by allowing savers to use the existing Social Security infrastructure, with its built-in mechanisms, to pool and share risks at much lower “load” than any private savings vehicle. Pricing of optional add-on benefits would need to account for a modest degree of adverse selection, as those with longer life expectancies would be somewhat more likely to participate. It would also be more expensive to administer than the current system, though likely much less so than existing private annuity products given the existing infrastructure to track contributions and benefit eligibility. But even with pricing that accounts for these extra costs—set to ensure that the new tier of optional add-on benefits is entirely self-financing—this would be a very attractive option relative to the private annuity market. Participants would contribute throughout their careers, with no need to make investment decisions, pay fees, or face market risk. In return, they or their survivors would receive higher benefits when they retired, became disabled, or died. Other proposed changes that are similarly consistent with the principles enumerated above are also worthy of consideration. It is noteworthy, however, that recent discussions have moved away from the ideas of pre-funding Social Security benefits and investing trust funds in equities. These do nothing to address the above principles, and only expose the program (and the retirees it supports) to political and market risk.

## Social Security

### Based on the Social Security Act

#### Social Security provides old age, survivors, and disability insurance. Individuals are paid on the basis of their employment record and prior contributions.

Wex N/D

Wex is a freely available legal dictionary and legal encyclopedia hosted through Cornell Law School. "Social Security." Published by Wex & Cornell Law School, no publication date. Available here: (https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/social\_security#:~:text=social%20security%20law%3A%20an%20overview,full%20burden%20of%20such%20occurrences.) - AP

Social security is designed, as the title suggests, to provide security. To protect individuals from unforeseen catastrophes, the government spreads certain risks among all members of society so that no single family bears the full burden of such occurrences. In the United States, the Social Security Program was created in 1935 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) to provide old age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits to workers and their families. Unlike welfare, social security benefits are paid to an individual or his or her family at least in part on the basis of that person's employment record and prior contributions to the system. The program is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Since the establishment of the Medicare program in 1965, it and Social Security have been closely linked. While the original act used "Social Security" in a broader sense, including federally funded welfare programs and unemployment compensation within its scope, and the Medicare legislature took the form of amendments to that act, current usage associates the phrase with old age, survivors, and disability insurance. The Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program pays out monthly benefits to retired people, to families whose wage earner has died, and to workers unemployed due to sickness or accident. Workers qualify for its protection by having been employed for a minimum amount of time and by having made contributions to the program. Once an individual has qualified for protection, certain other family members are, as well. Financial need is not a requirement but continuing to earn substantial sums is inconsistent with eligibility for certain benefits (disability insurance) and can reduce the benefit amount with others (including retirement or survivors benefits). While the Social Security Act (federal law) governs an applicant's right to benefits, state substantive law governs some of the family relationship issues that may bear on that right such as the validity of a marriage.

### Capitalized = SSA

#### When the s’s in Social Security are capitalized it refers to the Social Security Act established in 1935

Merriam Webster N/D

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated is an American company that publishes reference books and is especially known for its dictionaries. It is the oldest dictionary publisher in the United States. "Social Security." Published bt Merriam Webster, no publication date. Available here: (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20security) - AP

social security noun 1 : the idea or system by which the public provides for the security of individuals and their families 2 capitalized both Ss : a U.S. government program established in 1935 to include old-age and survivors insurance, contributions to state unemployment insurance, and old-age assistance

### Supplements Lost Income

#### Social security is a catchall term for legislated programs which provide income when its disrupted – it includes a laundry list of benefits, qualifications, and social security providers

Abel-Smith 23

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Social security, any of the measures established by legislation to maintain individual or family income or to provide income when some or all sources of income are disrupted or terminated or when exceptionally heavy expenditures have to be incurred (e.g., in bringing up children or paying for health care). Thus social security may provide cash benefits to persons faced with sickness and disability, unemployment, crop failure, loss of the marital partner, maternity, responsibility for the care of young children, or retirement from work. Social security benefits may be provided in cash or kind for medical need, rehabilitation, domestic help during illness at home, legal aid, or funeral expenses. Social security may be provided by court order (e.g., to compensate accident victims), by employers (sometimes using insurance companies), by central or local government departments, or by semipublic or autonomous agencies.

## Basic Income

### Basic Income = Unconditional

#### A basic income is unconditional, it cannot have means-testing and work requirements

Groot & van der Veen Loek 00

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A basic income is an income granted unconditionally to all on an individual basis, without a means test or work requirement. It is a type of minimum income guarantee that differs from those that now exist in various European countries. Considered in its pure form, a basic income is paid (1) to individuals rather than households; (2) irrespective of wealth or any income from other sources; and (3) without requiring the performance of any work or the willingness to accept a job if offered. Its relevance to the problems of contemporary welfare states has long been recognized. From the 1970s onwards, forms of basic income have been regularly proposed for adapting the post-war institutions of social transfer to the conditions of a modern economy, in which lifetime security through earned income is no longer the norm. The guiding claim was that an unconditional floor of guaranteed income is justified as the fairest and the most efficient way of reconstructing basic security in the welfare state. Inevitably, the fairness part of this claim led to a principled debate concerning the unconditional features of basic income, in particular the absence of the requirement of willingness to work. The reason for this is obvious, for any moral justification of unconditional basic income has to deal with the objection that it is unfair to hand out transfers to ablebodied persons who are merely unwilling to earn a living. This theme has been explored in depth in Arguing for Basic Income (1992).

### Has Eligibility Requirements

#### Basic income can include means testing and eligibility requirements

Strawczinski & Tirosh 20

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In recent years there is a heated debate on the desirability of Basic Income as a future device for substituting traditional welfare, which continues to be implemented by governments in all countries. In fact, experiments for Basic Income were performed in Canada, Finland, India and Namibia (and proposed also in Switzerland). Recently, Spain has accelerated the implementation of such a system (called "minimum vital income3") in order to cope with the consequences of the Covid 19 crisis, which created in the short run a situation of poverty for many families during the months of economic inactivity, that was imposed in order to avoid contagion. According to the Spanish government's decision, the basic income is transferred to eligible families starting in June 2020. In the background of this proposal, we are witnessing a process of substitution of workers by the use of machines – following the growth process that characterizes modern economies. In a situation where growth enhances the substitution of unskilled workers by machines, it would be desirable to adjust ex-ante the welfare system, in order to gradually cope with increasing unemployment of older workers, as observed in many countries.4 The means tested Basic Income proposal claims for a transfer that will be guaranteed to low-income workers; in such situation this income would allow individuals that confront difficulties for becoming skilled to have decent living, and thus improving social welfare under the new technological environment. Paradoxically, the "machines instead of workers" phenomenon occurs in a period in which more governments are implementing the Earned Income Tax Credit as a policy tool, which actually curtails disincentives for non-participation of the Working Poor and consequently it depresses unskilled wages. Such an expansion in the use of this tool, in a world where machines substitute workers, represents substantial trade-offs in terms of policy, and calls for an analysis that allows assessing the comparative advantage of Basic Income programs against traditional welfare. Since the General Basic Income program has been rejected by most economists (as explained below), it is important to check whether its relevant substitute – a means-tested Basic Income – is the right remedy under the new situation. In particular, policy-makers are interested to know whether under increasing inequality a means-tested Basic Income system produces a policy option with higher social utility compared to traditional welfare.