

SS bankrupt a decade early

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Does anyone remember President Bush's attempts to fix Social Security? If you do you should remember that Democrats said that nothing was wrong with Social Security. The lied!

[A report from the Congressional Budget Office shows that for the first time in 25 years, Social Security is taking in less in taxes than it is spending on benefits.](#)

It would have been a lot simpler to fix the system years ago, when we could have used Social Security's cash surpluses to buy non-Treasury securities, such as government-backed mortgage bonds or high-grade corporates that would have helped cover future cash shortfalls. Now it's too late.

Even though an economic recovery might produce some small, fleeting cash surpluses, Social Security's days of being flush are over.

To be sure -- three of the most dangerous words in journalism -- the current Social Security cash deficits aren't all that big, given that Social Security is a \$700 billion program this year, and that the government expects to borrow about \$1.5 trillion in fiscal 2010 to cover its other obligations, about the same as it borrowed in fiscal 2009.

But this year's Social Security cash shortfall is a watershed event. Until this year, Social Security was a problem for the future. Now it's a problem for the present.

Obama has wasted a year on health care and our country is in far worse financial shape at the end of that year. The time has come for Democrats to start being honest about the fiscal problems our nation faces. Sadly, I doubt that they have any intention of doing that.