

# The New York Times

LETTERS

## Make the Wealthy Wait for Benefits?

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**To the Editor:**

Ezekiel J. Emanuel claims that under his Social Security reform proposal, higher earners would have an incentive to save and those who frittered away their incomes would have to work longer. Both claims are problematic.

Dr. Emanuel is effectively proposing a benefit cut for higher earners while holding lower earners harmless. But penalizing higher earners would reduce their work incentives. And if high earners fritter away their incomes and arrive at retirement with insufficient resources and the inability to work longer, would the government be able to credibly tell them to deal with it? I have my doubts.

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Washington, May 21, 2012

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