



*Video Transcript*

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**Senator Lindsey Graham,  
Republican**

Hello, I'm Senator Graham from South Carolina. I want to compliment this organization for trying to fight poverty at home, but also abroad.

I'm Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Appropriation. Extreme poverty, in Africa, and other places overseas are a national security threat to us. So I've been leading the effort to try to invest in the economies of Africa. To improve their farming, so they can be more than just subsistence farmers. Helping people with better diets, so that the drugs we give them regarding AIDS and malaria works.

To the American taxpayer whose invested in helping people abroad. You're doing yourself a great service, because radical Islam preys on the poor.

Back here at home, poverty is with us at an extent in 2015, that we all have to up our game. It's not growing the government that I'm so much concerned about. It is trying to grow the private sector. Because the best way, as we all know, to fight poverty, is with a good job.

But we do have safety net programs that are coming apart. Eighty million baby boomers are going to retire in the next 20 to 25 years. Making Medicare, and social security, and Medicaid. And other programs that help the poor, and the senior citizens basically fall apart. Because we're down to two workers for every retiree.

When I was a young man, I lost my mother when I was 21. And my dad when I was 22. We owned a small business, neither one finished high school. I'm the first in my family to go to college. When my parents died, I had a 13-year-old sister to care for. If it weren't for college loans, she would not have gone to college. If it wasn't for a social security check, we wouldn't have made it. Survivor benefits coming to my sister helped us. We moved in with an aunt and uncle, who worked in the textile plants. Who never made over \$25,000 in their life. I understand what it's like to be knocked down. And it is in our interest as a nation, to build people up.

And the goal, if I get to be president of the United States, is just to spread prosperity to all corners. At the end of the day, the money we set aside to help people that are disabled and the

poor. Is under siege, because if we don't deal with the retirement of the baby boomers. There's going to be no money to run the government, outside of paying Medicare and social security bills.

Half of today's seniors will be in poverty without a social security check. So what am I going to do to fight poverty? I'm going to make sure social security is safe. That means younger people have to work longer, because we're living longer. That means people in my income level who make \$175,000 a year are going to have to take less. When I was 22, I needed every penny from social security. Now today, I'm 60, and I'm not married, and I have no kids. I could give up some of my benefits. To make sure it was there for others.

All the social safety net programs are going to come apart if we don't have a president that can bring this country together. To do what Ronald Reagan, and Tip O'Neil did, which is to deal with the demographic changes. There will be no money to help the poor, or anyone else. If we don't get America, off the trap to becoming Greece. And that's going to take a bipartisan agreement, where republicans have to flatten out the tax code. Take away some deductions for corporations, and some of our friends to pay down debt. Means test social security and Medicare benefits, and age adjust. By doing that, you free up money to help the poor. And keep these vital programs alive. If you don't, everything collapses.

So my commitment to fighting poverty is to make sure we don't become a debtor nation.

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