



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 23, 1999

**H.R. 1788**  
**Nazi Benefits Termination Act of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary  
on July 20, 1999*

H.R. 1788 would stiffen restrictions on payments of federal benefits to people who participated in Nazi persecution. Under current law, former Nazis are pursued by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) in the Department of Justice and may ultimately be stripped of their legal immigrant or naturalized citizen status and made to leave the United States. At that time, they also lose eligibility for federal benefits. A handful of people, though, have short-circuited the OSI's investigation by leaving the United States in the midst of proceedings. Such people can then continue to collect Social Security (the only significant federal benefit that is sent to people living abroad). H.R. 1788 would permit the Attorney General to continue proceedings in such cases and allow respondents living overseas to participate by video conference. The bill would also clarify the law by directing that, because these are civil rather than criminal proceedings, the standard of proof required is a preponderance of the evidence; a few Circuits have demanded a higher standard.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1788 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Based on information from the Department of Justice, CBO expects the number of people affected, and hence the savings in Social Security, to be very small. Effects on other benefit programs would be even tinier. Pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to this bill, but CBO estimates that the effects would not be significant.

H.R. 1788 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Kathy Ruffing. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.