

United States Senate

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray:

As you continue your work to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide no less than \$15.402 billion in funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA), sufficient funding to allow for timely implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act while also improving overall SSA customer service.

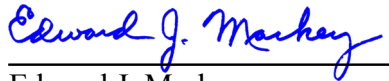
Last year, with large bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate, Congress passed the Social Security Fairness Act into law. This law repealed both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), draconian laws that robbed an entire generation of teachers, firefighters, postal workers, and public servants of all stripes the Social Security benefits they earned.

Due to persistent underfunding, staff shortages, and a hiring freeze in place since November 2024, the SSA acknowledged that implementing this new law will be a challenge and require significant upfront cost to transmit retroactive payments to affected beneficiaries and update its systems to automatically recalculate benefit amounts going forward. As a result, some public servants impacted by WEP and GPO may not see a change in their Social Security benefits for at least 12 months. Without new additional funding, SSA will be required to divert resources from other customer service priorities, which could lead to longer wait times and would undo the agency's progress it made reducing the disability appeals backlog and improving customer service to the public.

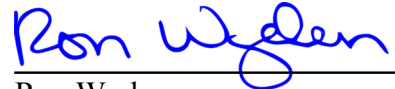
We appreciate the Committee's bipartisan work to provide SSA with increased funding in previous years and urge you to continue these bipartisan successes by supporting the SSA to implement the Social Security Fairness Act in addition to sufficient resources to rebuild and reinforce its workforce, modernize its IT infrastructure, timely process disability claims and improve customer service to the millions who rely on Social Security.

We appreciate your support of the Social Security Administration, and respectfully urge you to include a substantial funding boost for SSA in the final FY2025 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



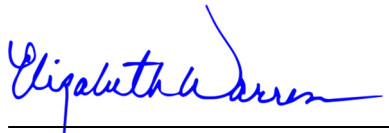
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



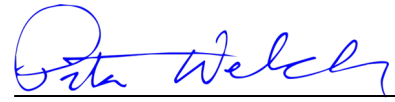
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



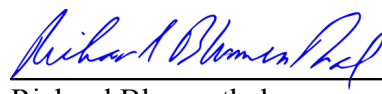
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



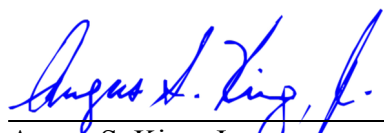
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



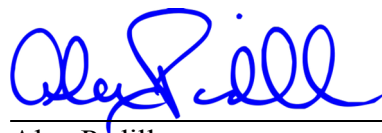
Jack Reed
United States Senator



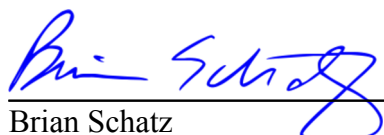
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



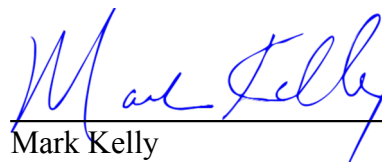
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Cc:

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairwoman, Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Ranking Member, Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee