



March 25, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear President Trump:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we write with grave concern about your plans to fire thousands of federal employees at the Social Security Administration (SSA). Removing SSA staff would harm families across the United States, and disproportionately impact women, who are the majority of Social Security beneficiaries.¹ We demand that you retain all SSA employees and do not place any SSA employees on administrative leave. Additionally, we demand you reinstate those who have already been impacted.

Your proposed cuts to Social Security Administration staff will jeopardize the economic security of millions of women. In 2023, women constituted 55% of adult Social Security beneficiaries and 63% of beneficiaries 85 and older.² Additionally, 95% of Social Security survivor benefits are for women as they are more likely to outlive their spouses.³ As a result, women will have to decide whether to pay rent or buy food because of a stalling of services at SSA due to staff shortages and an upheaval of internal systems. You have also claimed that there is "widespread fraud" across SSA with millions of

1 Social Security Administration Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics. (n.d.). Social Security Administration. Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2024.

https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2024/fast_facts24.html#:~:text=71.6%20million%20people%20received%20benefits,beneficiaries%20in%202023%20were%20women

2 Social Security Administration Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics. (n.d.). Social Security Administration. Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2024.

https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2024/fast_facts24.html#:~:text=71.6%20million%20people%20received%20benefits,beneficiaries%20in%202023%20were%20women

3 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (n.d.). Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts about Social Security.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/top-ten-facts-about-social-security>

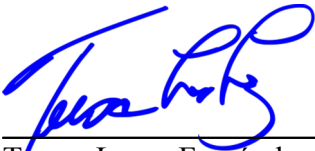
beneficiaries being over 100 years old, which has been debunked.⁴ Women and families should not pay the price for your lies and for billionaires to cash out.

You have also repeatedly remarked that you will not cut Social Security payments. Yet, you plan to fire 7,000 employees and shut down at least 48 SSA offices across the country.⁵ If there are not enough staff to administer the benefits, that is the equivalent of cutting payments. Particularly, staff is needed to issue reimbursements for 2.5 million beneficiaries based on the *Social Security Fairness Act* (Public Law 118-273), which President Joe Biden signed into law on January 5, 2025.⁶ Reducing staff at SSA would delay these payments for seniors and survivors, who are predominantly women. SSA already has a shortage of workers that leads to long wait times for beneficiaries. In fact, in Texas, individuals with disabilities must wait on average 332 days for SSA to process their disability claims. In Georgia, wait times average 370 days.⁷ Women and families cannot afford to wait over a year to access their benefits.

We demand that you reinstate and retain federal employees at the Social Security Administration. Without these employees, women who rely on Social Security payments will suffer through no fault of their own. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

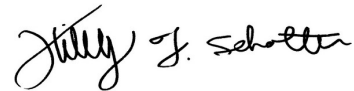
Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Hillary Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

4 Anderson, Michelle (2024, July 25). Preventing, detecting, and recovering improper payments. Preventing, Detecting, and Recovering Improper Payments. <https://oig.ssa.gov/assets/uploads/072401.pdf>

5 Luhby, T., & Herb, J. (2025, March 8). “a disruptive effect”: How slashing staff at the Social Security Administration is sparking fears the system could collapse | CNN politics. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/08/politics/social-security-administration-staff-cuts/index.html>

6 Congressional Research Service. (2024, November 13). Social Security: Beneficiaries Affected by Both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45845/2>

7 Smalligan, J., & Vance, A. (2025, February 20). Downsizing Staff Will Make It Harder to Receive Social Security Payments. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/downsizing-staff-will-make-it-harder-receive-social-security-payments>



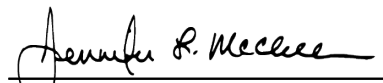
Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



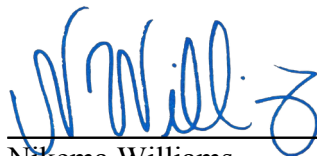
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



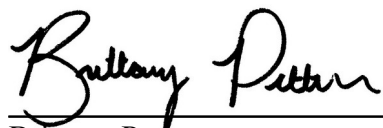
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



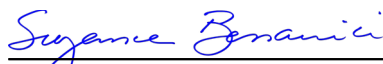
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



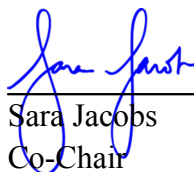
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



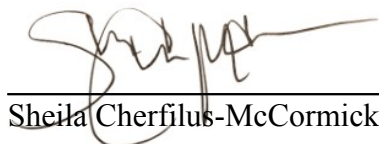
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



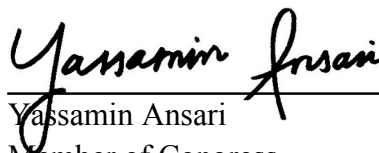
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



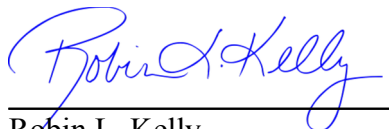
Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



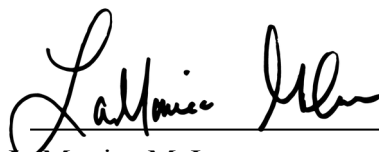
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus