

Senate Finance Committee

Testimony of Kathryn R. Lang

Nomination to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board

January 31, 2024

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Senators of the Finance Committee, it is a great honor to appear before you today as a nominee to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board. I want to thank President Biden for nominating me for this position. I greatly appreciate this Committee holding this hearing on my nomination and the nominations of Mr. Biggs and Ms. Lewis.

In my 25 years as an attorney, I have been an advocate for low-income older adults and people with disabilities in a variety of settings, with a focus on public benefits. Over the past decade, I have become a nationally recognized expert on the benefit programs of the Social Security Administration, in particular the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and Social Security benefits for low-income older adults.

Over 7 million older adults live in poverty in the United States today. As Director of Federal Income Security at Justice in Aging, I am part of a team working to ensure older adults in this country have access to the resources they need. We train advocates and keep them informed of the most current rules and policies at the Social Security Administration, to ensure that all who qualify can access the benefits they need. We provide materials, trainings, and other information to help advocates navigate the complex rules and restrictions with their clients and stay informed about changes to or systemic problems with SSA benefit programs.

I have had the opportunity to present to the Social Security Advisory Board in the past on some of my areas of expertise, including the representative payee program and streamlining the administration of SSI benefits. I also bring extensive knowledge about other areas involving SSA benefits such as post-eligibility issues like overpayments and the SSI in-kind support and maintenance rules. I look forward to this opportunity for public service as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my husband, David Glenn, my daughter, my parents, Frank and Pauline Lang, and members of my extended family, for all of their support over the years.

Again, I appreciate the Committee for holding this hearing today. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have for me.