

**Statement for the Record of Ranking Member Mike Crapo**  
**Open Executive Session**  
**Senate Committee on Finance**  
**November 28, 2023**

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

“Today we are voting on the nomination of Martin O’Malley to serve as the next Commissioner of Social Security.

“During his nomination hearing before this Committee, Governor O’Malley acknowledged the serious operational and customer service challenges facing the Social Security Administration (SSA).

“If confirmed, he will need to take the steps necessary to address these challenges, including:

- Improving wait times for disability decisions and updating disability program rules;
- Reducing wait times for callers seeking assistance through the SSA’s National 800 Number;
- Ensuring that if someone wants an in-person appointment with the SSA, they can get one in a timely manner;
- Improving the agency’s aging information technology and online service offerings; and
- Taking additional steps to prevent overpayments before they occur, which protects both beneficiaries and taxpayers.

“I appreciate the commitments Governor O’Malley made during his hearing and in his responses to questions submitted for the record. For example, he committed that he would make customer service improvements at the SSA a top priority and would not weigh in on policy decisions beyond providing Congress with the data and information it needs to evaluate policy options.

“However, I will not be supporting his nomination today.

“When the Biden Administration removed the last Senate-confirmed Commissioner prior to the completion of his six-year term, I expressed strong concerns that this decision politicized the SSA to the detriment of Social Security beneficiaries.

“It is important for Commissioners to have sufficient time and certainty to implement real changes. Now that the precedent has been set to shorten a Commissioner’s term, future Administrations could follow it.

“Although I will not be voting in favor of Governor O’Malley’s nomination today, we do share the goal of getting the Social Security Administration back on track so that it can provide the public with the level of service they expect and deserve.

“If confirmed, I will work with Governor O’Malley on this and other issues in a bipartisan manner.

“Thank you for holding this executive session, Mr. Chairman.”