

RON WYDEN, OREGON, CHAIRMAN

DEBBIE STABENOW, MICHIGAN
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASO, NEVADA
ELIZABETH WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS

MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
PATRICK J. TOOMEY, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
GREGG RICHARD, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

October 28, 2021

Dr. Kilolo Kijakazi
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Acting Commissioner Kijakazi:

According to Section 231 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), not later than May 30 of each year the Commissioner of Social Security “shall prepare and deliver a report annually to the President and the Congress” regarding the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Between 1997 and 2009, the reports were received by Congress on or before May 30. During the Obama administration, the statutory deadline was then missed five of eight years. Since 2016, four reports have been issued, with only two having met the statutory deadline. The deadline was, however, met in 2019 and 2020. The longest delay in providing a report, relative to the statutory deadline, was in 2017 when the report was received on September 1.

Congress has yet to receive a 2021 report and, therefore, the Social Security Administration is not in compliance with Section 231 or P.L. 104-193, and the delay in providing the report is the longest in history.

This delay comes on the heels of the 2021 trustees reports for the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, which are to be issued annually no later than April 1 or each calendar year, being delivered with the longest delay in the history of the reports since 1995. Of concern, the delays follow the unnecessary politicization of the Social Security Administration (SSA) resulting from the President’s unlawful decision to remove the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner from leadership.

Social Security retirement and disability insurance beneficiaries, and beneficiaries of the SSI program administered by SSA deserve better, and Congress must receive timely, regular reports on the financial conditions of programs that SSA administers. Indeed, the Senate Finance Committee’s Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy held a hearing on

September 9 of this year titled "Policy Options for Improving SSI" without the benefit of having a timely report on the SSI program.

Please identify by November 4 when SSA expects to issue the overdue Annual Report on the SSI program and reasons for this year's inordinate delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Crapo".

Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Young".

Todd Young
United States Senator