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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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March 28, 2025

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Dirksen 219
Washington, D.C. 20901

Chairman Crapo:

I write to urge you to immediately pause the Senate Finance Committee's consideration of Frank Bisignano to be Commissioner of Social Security until we fully investigate a whistleblower statement from a former senior Social Security employee that directly contradicts certain representations made by Mr. Bisignano. The details contained in the statement, which were independently verified by the Washington Post, suggest that Mr. Bisignano lied during the Committee's bipartisan vetting process, lied to me in my office, and lied to the American people at his confirmation hearing about his involvement in key operational, management, and personnel decisions at the Social Security Administration (SSA).

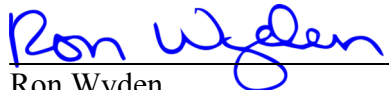
As part of the Committee's bipartisan due diligence process that it uses for all nominees, Committee staff asked Mr. Bisignano about his current role at SSA, his contacts with SSA officials and individuals affiliated with the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), and his discussions related to SSA. In each response, Mr. Bisignano told staff that he was not involved in SSA's operations, personnel, and management decisions, including the decision to close regional offices, and was not involved in the hiring and placement of key DOGE officials at SSA. Of the individuals he did know—in particular, Michael Russo—he told committee staff that his communications were limited to brief courtesy exchanges. However, according to the whistleblower statement, Mr. Bisignano “frequently spoke with senior SSA executives” and was “personally briefed on key SSA operations, personnel, and management decisions.” Further, the statement details his personal involvement in the placement of DOGE officials at SSA. According to the whistleblower, on January 30, 2025, Mr. Bisignano personally pushed for the appointment of Michael Russo to be the Chief Information Officer at SSA and additionally, that he and Mr. Russo spoke frequently about SSA operations. The whistleblower notes that Mr. Bisignano also directed the hiring of Mark Steffensen and was

involved with Scott Coulter's onboarding at the agency. Mark Steffensen and Scott Coulter are now serving as General Counsel and Chief Information Officer at SSA, respectively.

According to the whistleblower, on February 10, when Mr. Russo "unsuccessfully pressured" SSA employees to expedite the onboarding of a key DOGE engineer, Akash Bobba, Mr. Bisignano "personally intervened" and instructed SSA staff to onboard Mr. Bobba and give him "immediate access to SSA's systems." Mr. Bobba was sworn in, by phone, that night and received access to "highly sensitive information on nearly every American" in SSA's systems. In meetings with the Committee's bipartisan staff, Mr. Bisignano explicitly he had no involvement with DOGE and that he did not know Akash Bobba.

The allegations detailed in the whistleblower statement are deeply concerning and warrant immediate review. Further, knowingly providing false information to the U.S. Senate is a federal crime. Refusing to investigate allegations of this magnitude would open a dark chapter in the Finance Committee's history and surrender its ability to hold truth to power. The Committee must do its job and investigate these claims. I therefore request that the Finance Committee pause its consideration of Mr. Bisignano's nomination.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance