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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

GREGG RICHARD, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
Chairman, Committee on Finance  
Dirksen 219  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Crapo:

We urge you to immediately convene a Finance Committee hearing to investigate alarming developments at the Social Security Administration (SSA).

In the past 30 days alone, the Acting Commissioner—who, prior to his appointment, was reportedly placed on administrative leave for leaking sensitive information to unauthorized individuals—authorized the “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) unfettered access to Americans’ most sensitive information and circumvented SSA’s long-standing privacy protection policies and regulations. Moreover, when SSA’s career civil servants refused to break the law, the White House and DOGE forced them out of the agency. Additionally, SSA announced radical changes to the agency’s organization, closing six regional offices; shuttering offices focused on customer service, reducing waste, fraud, and abuse, and ensuring accessibility to SSA’s programs; placing the agency’s headquarters up for sale; dramatically slashing the agency’s workforce; and reversed one of its key overpayment reforms. Moreover, these actions appear to have been made without any analysis or consideration of its impact on Americans’ ability to access their earned benefits and without consulting Congress.

As you know, nearly every American interacts with SSA at every pivotal moment in their life like a birth and adoption; marriage and divorce; onset of a life-altering disability; retirement from work; or the death of a spouse or parent. Access to in-person services is especially important for each of those moments, especially for people who have difficulty speaking by phone, who do not have reliable internet access, and who have difficulty understanding program rules. Any disruption in service, especially interruption of benefit payments, can be financially devastating for families.

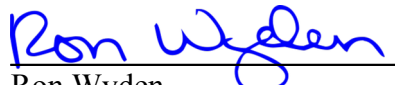
At a time when the agency’s workforce is at a 50-year low, the potential loss of centuries’ worth of agency experience will risk worsening backlogs, lengthening wait times, and interrupting benefit payments. When combined with SSA providing inexperienced individuals


unfettered access to the agency's sensitive data systems, there is a profound risk of causing irreparable harm to the agency's systems and Americans' financial security. Indeed, even the last two confirmed Commissioners—a Democrat<sup>1</sup> and a Republican<sup>2</sup>—both expressed concern about the agency's recent actions.


As one of the nation's most popular and effective programs, Social Security provides a foundation of income on which workers can build for their retirement, as well as valuable insurance protection against unexpected hardship. Failure to investigate these actions is an abdication of our oversight responsibility and a disservice to our constituents who sent us to Congress.


We stand ready to work with you to ensure Americans' information remain secure and they are able to access their earned benefits that they have paid into with every paycheck.


Sincerely,


  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Finance


  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/social-security-benefits-warning-missed-payments-2041301>

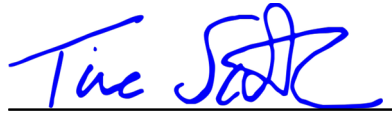
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/22/social-security-trump-doge-musk/>



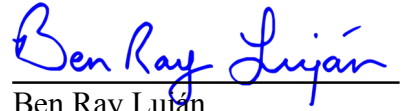
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



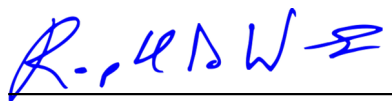
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



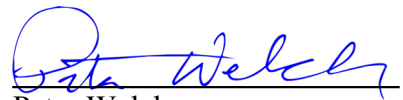
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator