

March 24, 2025

Senator Wyden,

I am a senior Social Security Administration employee who recently left the agency. I am concerned that the agency's recent actions, including giving Elon Musk's DOGE employees access to sensitive personal information, will harm seniors and have a negative impact on the nearly 70 million Americans who rely on Social Security and the millions more who interact with the agency daily and/or have a Social Security Number. I am choosing to come forward today because I am concerned that the President's nominee to be Commissioner of Social Security, Frank Bisignano, will not temper the chaos but rather bolster it.

I am aware of numerous contacts Mr. Bisignano made with the agency since his nomination that have given me cause for question. While Mr. Bisignano was the unconfirmed nominee to lead the Social Security Administration, he frequently spoke with senior SSA executives and was personally briefed on key SSA operations, personnel, and management decisions.

Mr. Bisignano requested senior SSA executives to not hire anyone without his explicit approval. On January 30, he personally appointed Michael Russo, who he knew from his industry, to be SSA's Chief Information Officer. Since Mr. Russo formally joined the agency on February 3rd, he and Mr. Bisignano spoke frequently about SSA operations. On February 10, Mr. Bisignano directed the onboarding of Mark Steffenson as an attorney. He also had discussions with agency executives and Scott Coulter about Scott's onboarding at the agency. When Mr. Russo unsuccessfully pressured SSA employees to expedite the onboarding of a key DOGE engineer, Akash Bobba, Mr. Bisignano personally intervened on February 10 to instruct SSA staff to onboard Mr. Bobba and to give him immediate access to SSA's systems. Mr. Bobba was ultimately sworn in over the phone that same night and now has access to highly sensitive information on nearly every American.

Mr. Bisignano was aware of the significant impact the deferred resignation program would have on agency senior leadership and proposed plans to consolidate regions and functions as a result. In addition, he was aware of senior executive concerns related to terminating probationary employees and that the decision was made not to do so. Furthermore, Mr. Bisignano was aware of concerns related to broad data access being requested by Mr. Russo for DOGE employees and that the request did not comport with privacy laws, disclosure policies, and agency internal controls. In addition, Mr. Bisignano and Mr. Russo were made aware about SSA placing Leland Dudek on administrative leave pending an investigation into him sending harassing and threatening messages to SSA employees to get them to circumvent federal privacy laws to cooperate with DOGE and inappropriate

disclosure of SSA data. Mr. Bisignano was aware Mr. Dudek had been working with DOGE since December sharing information with them including discussions with Mr. Russo and Mr. Coulter prior to their onboarding at the agency. Mr. Bisignano knew Mr. Dudek, who at the time was a Senior Advisor in the Office Analytics, Review, and Oversight, instructed agency executives to onboard Mr. Russo and Mr. Coulter on January 30.

I believe these statements can be verified by the following individuals:

1. Leland Dudek, current Acting Commissioner
2. Michelle King, former Acting Commissioner
3. Michael Russo, current Chief Information Officer
4. Chad Poist, current Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
5. Tiffany Flick, former Acting Chief of Staff
6. Dustin Brown, current Chief Operating Officer, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of External Affairs
7. Grace Kim, former General Counsel
8. Florence Felix-Lawson, Chief Human Capital Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, and Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Mission Support
9. Elizabeth Tino, Senior Advisor, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs
10. Jo Tittle, Former Senior Advisor, Office of the Commissioner
11. Sean Brune, current Acting Deputy Commissioner of Mission Support
12. Doris Diaz, current Acting Deputy Commissioner of Operations
13. Stephen Evangelista, current Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Office of Legal and Policy
14. Mark Steffensen, current Acting Deputy Commissioner of Legal and Policy and Acting General Counsel
15. Sherese Reyes, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
16. Eric Skidmore, former Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs
17. Tim Montelone, former Senior Advisor Office of Program Integrity
18. Gina Clemons, former Deputy Commissioner Office of Analytics, Review, and Oversight
19. Kristen Medley-Proctor, former Assistant Deputy Commissioner Human Resources