

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to urge the nomination of a Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to serve as Senate-confirmed leaders for the Social Security Administration (SSA) and carry out the responsibilities of the agency.

Today Social Security covers over 179 million workers¹, and over 70 million people receive monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits.² More than one out of every six U.S. residents collects Social Security benefits and older Americans make up about four out of every five beneficiaries.³ Recent U.S. Census Bureau reports show that Social Security provides over half of the income for older adults, and nearly all of their income for one in four older adults.⁴ Social Security continues to be one of the largest anti-poverty programs in the country, lifting over 22 million Americans out of poverty.⁵

The Social Security Commissioner is directly responsible for all programs administered by the agency, including state-administered programs directed by SSA. Nominating and confirming a permanent Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner would provide accountable leadership to the agency and reassure the public of SSA's commitment to supporting the vulnerable populations that rely on its programs.

The Social Security Administration's longstanding labor-management problems worsened under the prior Administration. Under prior leadership, SSA was among the most hostile agencies in the federal government in the way it chose to implement the since-repealed anti-union executive orders from 2018. Employee satisfaction is falling at SSA, and SSA employees report feelings of

¹ Social Security Administration. Support. <https://www.ssa.gov/agency/pillars/support.html>.

² Social Security Administration. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Information for 2022.

<https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>.

³ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts about Social Security.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/top-ten-facts-about-social-security>.

⁴ Irena Dushi, Howard M. Iams, and Brad Trenkamp. The Importance of Social Security Benefits to the Income of the Aged Population. Social Security Administration. <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v77n2/v77n2p1.html>.

⁵ Kathleen Romig. Social Security Lifts More People Above the Poverty Line Than Any Other Program. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/social-security-lifts-more-people-above-the-poverty-line-than-any-other>.

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exhaustion at among the highest rates of any federal agency.⁶ Permanent, Senate-confirmed leadership at the agency will help improve this longstanding challenge for the agency and its employees.

Thank you for your unwavering focus on ensuring the financial security and well-being of all Americans, including the millions who receive support from Social Security. We look forward to considering your nominees for Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and working together to improve overall service at the Social Security Administration for the millions of beneficiaries and those who use SSA's services.

Sincerely,



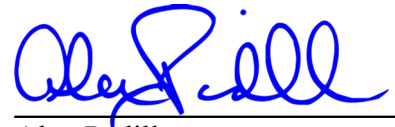
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



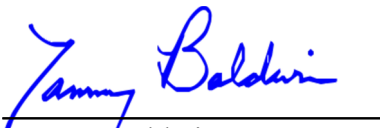
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

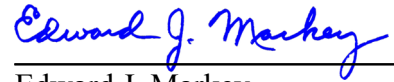
⁶ General Services Administration. Government-Wide Pulse Survey Pilot. <https://d2d.gsa.gov/report/government-wide-pulse-survey-pilot>; Office of Personnel Management. Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. <https://www.opm.gov/fevs/reports/data-reports>.

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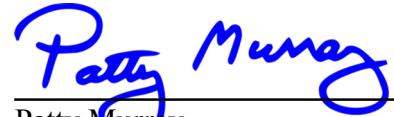
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



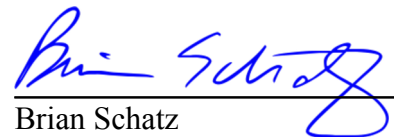
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator