

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned about skyrocketing wait times at the Social Security Administration (SSA), which are the direct result of underfunding SSA's operational budget. We urge you to join us in support of higher funding for SSA, so that the agency's hard-working and dedicated employees can begin to reduce the unconscionable delays Americans are now facing when they apply for benefits or have a problem requiring assistance from Social Security.

Social Security is the cornerstone of economic security for American retirees, families who have lost a breadwinner, and workers who have suffered a career-ending injury or illness. Virtually all Americans pay into Social Security during their working lives, and nearly 62 million Americans are currently receiving the benefits they have earned. For 6 out of 10 retirees, Social Security provides the majority of their income; among widows, almost half rely on Social Security for all or nearly all of their income.

Given the importance of Social Security, it is imperative that we increase the agency's budget, to ensure that Americans can receive their earned benefits, on time and in full. This is especially important since over the past seven years, Social Security's operating budget has been reduced by more than 10 percent, after adjusting for inflation. At the same time, the number of individuals who are eligible for benefits has increased by nearly 15 percent as the baby boom generation continues to move into retirement.

The current situation is precarious. Delays in receiving earned disability benefits are at unprecedented levels – one million very sick or injured workers have to wait nearly two years for a decision on their disability appeal. Yet because of an insufficient budget, SSA has been forced to close offices and reduce the hours of operation for those left open, and it has been unable to replace all of the employees who retire or leave for other jobs.

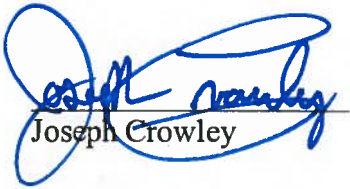
The lack of funding for administering Social Security causes tangible heartache across our country. Each year, thousands die waiting for a decision on their disability application, while many more endure years without income, in the process exhausting their life savings and even losing their homes. And once they are approved for benefits, they have to wait additional months before receiving their past-due benefits. The majority of callers to SSA's 800-number can't get through – there is either a busy signal or they hang up after lengthy waits. Millions of unresolved cases are pending in SSA's payment centers, where our constituents suffer additional delays waiting for a problem to be addressed, or for a correction to their benefit amount. One widow

was forced to survive on reduced income while waiting to receive her earned benefits and could not even afford to buy a headstone for her deceased spouse.

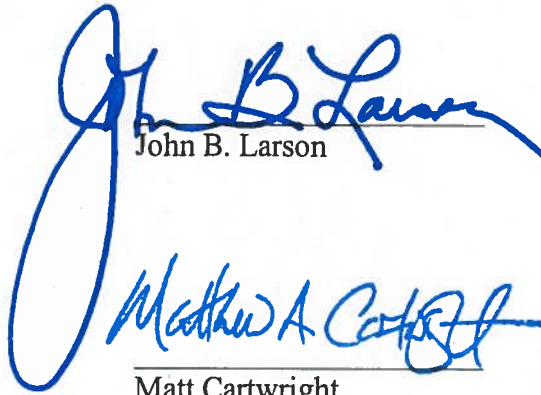
With the necessary resources, SSA can invest in critical technologies and hire the workers it needs to begin to reduce wait times and eliminate backlogs. But without proper funding for SSA's administrative costs, the situation will grow ever more dire.

Social Security is essential to American families. We urge you to support more resources for SSA so Americans can receive the benefits they are counting on.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley



John B. Larson



Julia Brownley



Matt Cartwright



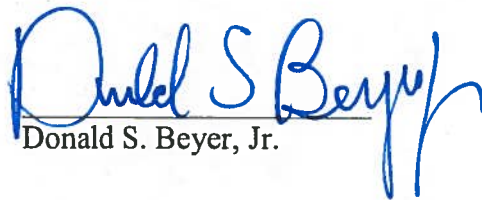
Dwight Evans



Earl Blumenauer



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.



Tim Ryan



Brendan F. Boyle



Sean Patrick Maloney



Brenda L. Lawrence

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Jimmy Gomez

Jimmy Gomez

Sander Levin

Sander M. Levin

Grace Meng

Grace Meng

Raul Ruiz

Raul Ruiz

Al Lawson

Al Lawson, Jr.

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

Mark Takano

Mark Takano

Tony Cardenas

Tony Cardenas

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter

Donald Norcross

Donald Norcross

Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas

Jared Polis

Jared Polis

Vicente Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell

Alan Lowenthal

Alan S. Lowenthal

John A. Yarmuth

John A. Yarmuth

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

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Ann M. Kuster

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Salud O. Carbajal

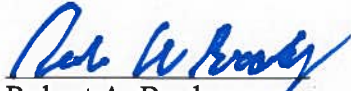
Salud O. Carbajal

Michelle Lujan Grisham

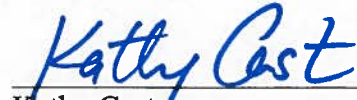
Michelle Lujan Grisham

Elizabeth H. Esty

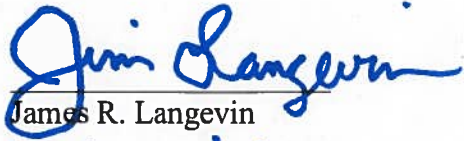
Elizabeth H. Esty



Robert A. Brady



Kathy Castor



James R. Langevin



G.K. Butterfield



Jim Costa



Lucille Roybal-Allard



Jerrold Nadler



Peter A. DeFazio



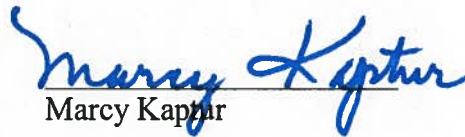
André Carson



Eleanor Holmes Norton



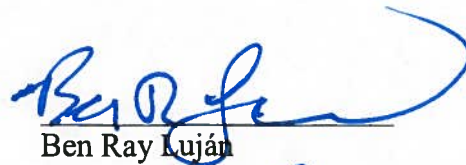
Danny K. Davis



Marcy Kaptur



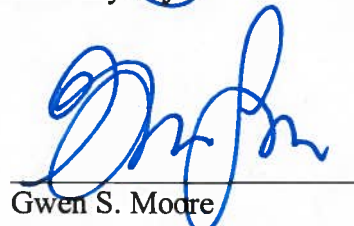
Terri A. Sewell



Ben Ray Lujan



Gregory W. Meeks



Gwen S. Moore



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Thomas R. Suozzi



Jimmy Panetta



Bennie G. Thompson



Val Butler Demings



Michael F. Doyle



Ruben Kihuen



A. Donald McEachin



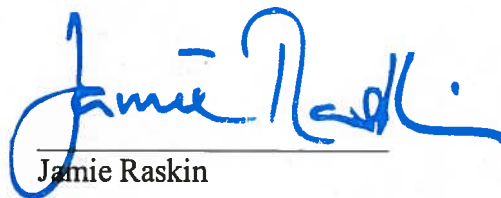
Pramila Jayapal



Jacky Rosen



Colleen Hanabusa



Jamie Raskin



James P. McGovern



Suzanne Bonamici

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

Adam Smith

Adam Smith

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch

Nydia Velázquez

Nydia M. Velázquez

Peter Welch

Peter Welch

Linda F. Sánchez

Linda F. Sánchez

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge

Daniel W. Lipinski

Daniel W. Lipinski

Al Green

Al Green

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

Jose E. Serrano

Jose E. Serrano

Richard M. Nolan

Richard M. Nolan

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

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Adam B. Schiff

Adam B. Schiff

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan

Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson

Ted Deutch

Ted Deutch

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley

Brian Higgins

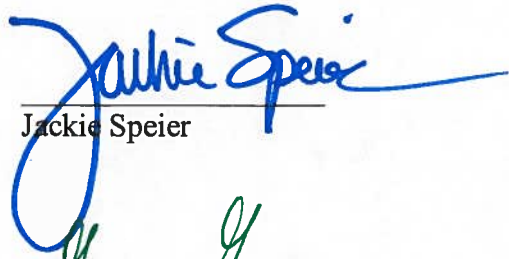
Brian Higgins

Eliot L. Engel

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Dina Titus

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Jackie Speier



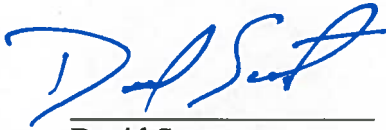
Louise M. Slaughter



Gene Green



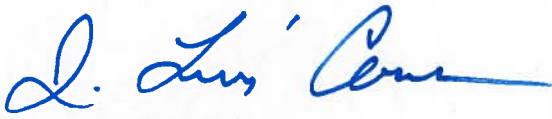
Charlie Crist



David Scott



Daniel T. Kildee



J. Luis Correa