## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2025

Dear Acting Commissioner Dudek,

We write with grave concern regarding recent reports of planned Social Security Administration (SSA) field office and hearing office closures, and the agency's announcement of "significant workforce reductions." If implemented, these actions will devastate SSA's ability to serve the public and deliver Social Security payments, inflicting back-door benefit cuts on the American people.

Social Security helps approximately 70 million beneficiaries -- including seniors, people with disabilities, children, and their families -- put food on the table, pay the rent, heat their homes, cover medical bills, and more. It is impossible to overstate the importance of Social Security to the American people, or the dire consequences of making it harder for beneficiaries to access their earned benefits.

Shuttering field offices and gutting SSA staffing has nothing to do with "governmental efficiency." As you know, SSA already operates with a customer service budget of under one percent of benefit payments. Staffing is at a 50-year low, despite serving a record number of beneficiaries. Years of understaffing and lack of resources have led to a customer service crisis at SSA. Closing the very field and hearing offices that beneficiaries rely on and gutting staff would only deepen the crisis, chaos, and confusion. If the Trump Administration is serious about efficiency in delivering benefits to the American people, it would ensure that SSA has the staff and offices needed to serve the public.

We stand with the 70 million Americans who rely on Social Security to make ends meet, and the civil servants who work tirelessly to ensure beneficiaries receive their payments in full and on time every month. We have a clear message: devastating SSA's ability to deliver benefits to the public is a de facto benefit cut. We urge you to halt any plans for laying off SSA employees and shuttering field or hearing offices.

Sincerely,

Jøhn B. Larson Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Social Security

Ailan Elico

Richard E. Neal Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means

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