

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are very concerned with reports that you are considering weakening Social Security by cutting or eliminating the source of its dedicated revenue: premiums, in the form of payroll deductions, paid by workers and their employers. Moving away from premiums supported by work would destroy the integrity of Social Security as a form of retirement, disability and survivor insurance and would open the door to significant Social Security cuts in the future. We urge you to reject this dangerous proposal to undermine Social Security.

As strong supporters of Social Security, we understand how important these earned benefits are to retirees who rely on Social Security as the foundation of a safe and secure retirement, as well as to workers and their families in the event of disability or premature death. Social Security keeps 22 million Americans—including one million children—out of poverty. Ending Social Security's connection between work and the benefits it provides would cut the legs out from the most resilient retirement program in America, and jeopardize the protections it provides to disabled Americans and families after the death of a provider. This proposal is a Trojan horse: under the guise of modest middle-class tax relief, it would open the door for large benefit cuts that would have devastating consequences for seniors, disabled workers and their families in the future.

Dedicated employee contributions, visibly deducted from paychecks and matched dollar-for-dollar by employers, have been a part of the structure of Social Security since its enactment in 1935. These payments are not mere taxes. Rather, they are premiums that purchase Social Security's insurance against the loss of wages in the event of disability, death, or old age. As President Roosevelt said, "We put those payroll contributions there so as to give the contributors a legal, moral and political right to collect their pensions."

Eliminating these direct payments would eliminate the visible link between contributions and benefits. Moreover, because Social Security's revenue is dedicated—meaning that the Social Security Trust Funds are exclusively used for the payment of benefits—and because Social Security has no borrowing authority, Social Security does not add a penny to the deficit. Substituting general revenue for Social Security's dedicated revenue would ensure that Social Security will be on the chopping block in every budget and deficit-reduction debate—a stark and destabilizing change.

Throughout your campaign for president you promised the American people that you would not cut Social Security. We strongly urge you to keep that promise. The promises we make as Americans through Social Security—to protect workers from a career-ending disability, to shield families after the death of a breadwinner, and to help retirees maintain their standard of living after they leave the workforce—are promises we have kept as a nation for over 80 years.

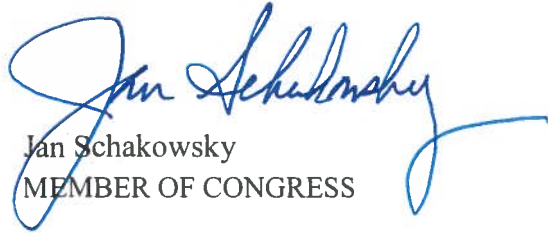
Instead of radically altering Social Security's financing, we urge you to build on the successes of Social Security as the greatest tool we have to protect the economic security of every American. We ask that you work with us to build a more secure middle class, strengthen America's greatest insurance program, and expand the benefits earned through Social Security.

Like so many of our constituents, we are proud of Social Security. This remarkably successful program binds us together as Americans and protects the financial security of American workers. Help us keep this sacred promise to our fellow Americans by refusing to sever the tie between hard-earned benefits and the hard work of the American people.

Sincerely,



Ted Deutch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jan Schakowsky  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Doris Matsui  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John B. Larson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Conyers, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Marcy Kaptur  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Sander Levin  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Peter A. DeFazio  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Louise M. Slaughter  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Eliot L. Engel  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
José E. Serrano  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

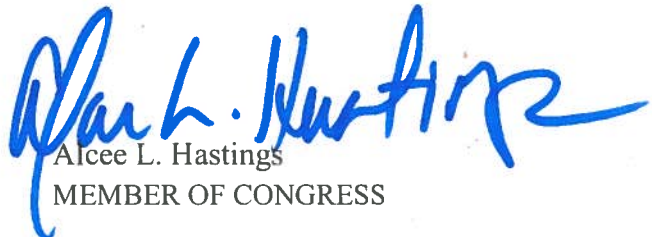
  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Jerrold Nadler  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Gene Green  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Alice L. Hastings  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nydia M. Velázquez  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Lloyd Doggett  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Michael F. Doyle  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Elijah Cummings  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Earl Blumenauer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Robert A. Brady  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Danny K. Davis  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Diana DeGette  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



James P. McGovern  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

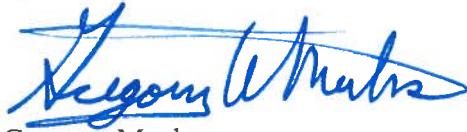


Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Adam Smith  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS





Gregory Meeks  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Barbara Lee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Michael E. Capuano  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Wm. Lacy Clay  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Rick Larsen  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Betty McCollum  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Stephen F. Lynch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



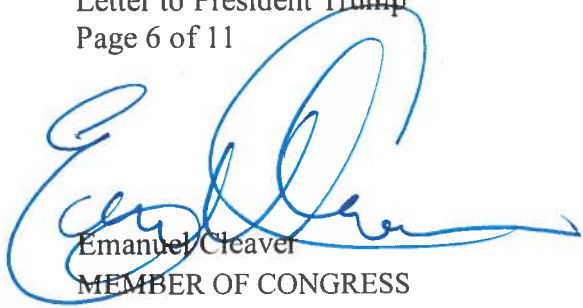
Raul M. Grijalva  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tim Ryan  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



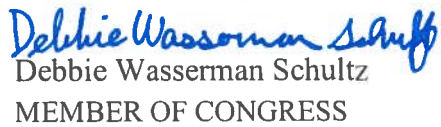
Linda T. Sanchez  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Emanuel Cleaver  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brian Higgins  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Albio Sires  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Kathy Castor  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Yvette D. Clarke  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



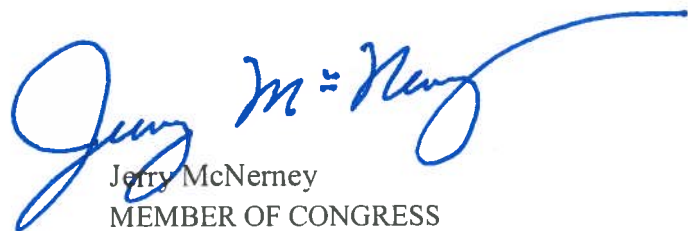
Steve Cohen  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Joe Courtney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



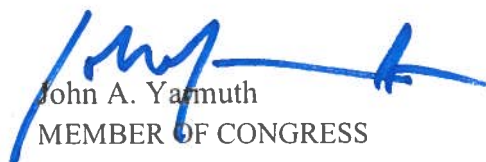
Keith Ellison  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



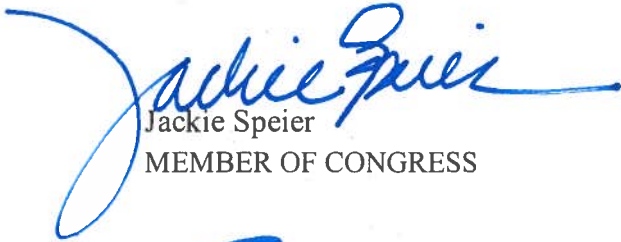
Jerry McNerney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Peter Welch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John A. Yarmuth  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jackie Speier  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Marcia L. Fudge  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Rick Nolan  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ben Ray Lujan  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Chellie Pingree  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Paul D. Tonko  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Judy Chu  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



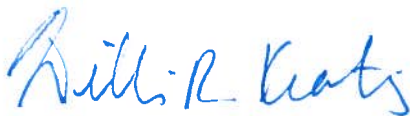
John B. Garamendi  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Karen Bass  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



David N. Cicilline  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



William R. Keating  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



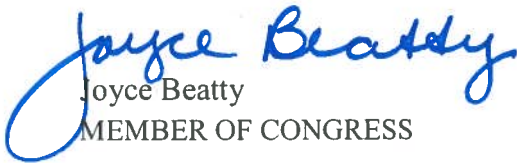
Terri A. Sewell  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

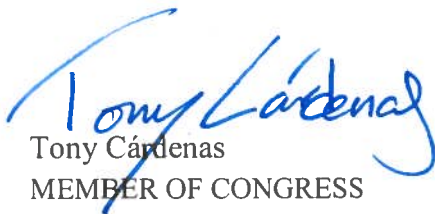
  
Dina Titus  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Carol Shea-Porter  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Colleen Hanabusa  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Joyce Beatty  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Julia Brownley  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Tony Cardenas  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Matt Cartwright  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
John K. Delaney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Lois Frankel  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Jared Huffman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Alan Lowenthal  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS





Michelle Lujan Grisham  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Grace Meng  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mark Pocan  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Eric Swalwell  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



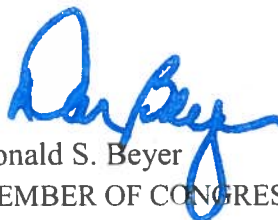
Katherine M. Clark  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alma S. Adams  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Donald Norcross  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Donald S. Beyer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brendan F. Boyle  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Debbie Dingell  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ted Lieu  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Norma J. Torres  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Dwight Evans  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Charlie Crist  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Val Butler Demings  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Adriano Espaillat  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Pramila Jayapal  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ro Khanna  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Al Lawson, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jamie Raskin  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jacky Rosen  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Seth Moulton  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Pete Aguilar  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Hakeem Jeffries  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Cheri Bustos  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



J. Luis Correa  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Joe Crowley  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brenda L. Lawrence  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mike Thompson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS