



April 26, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
United States Senate

RE: FY 2025 Funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA)

Dear Chairpersons Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Capito:

The undersigned organizations of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities' (CCD) Social Security Task Force urge you to fully fund the President's budget request of \$15.4 billion for SSA's FY 2025 administrative budget, and to provide sustained increased funding going forward until SSA's spending authority reaches 1.2 percent of annual benefits paid. This increased funding is essential in order to ensure that SSA has the resources it needs to improve customer service and address staffing levels that have reached an all-time low.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Social Security Task Force focuses on disability policy issues in the Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The SSI and Title II cash benefits, along with the related Medicaid and Medicare benefits, are the means of survival for millions of individuals with disabilities. They rely on SSA to promptly and fairly adjudicate their applications for disability benefits and to handle many other actions critical to their well-being.

The Social Security Administration is serving more customers than ever before with fewer staff than it has had in 27 years. Its administrative budget has been cut by 20 percent over the past nine years, and currently stands at less than one percent of benefits paid. By contrast, private insurance companies operate on well more than 10 percent of overhead compared to outlays.

Until 2018, SSA operated on a budget of 1.2 percent of benefits paid, and its customer service and employee satisfaction were among the best of federal agencies. The subsequent decline in

both of those measures closely tracks the decline in spending authority as a percentage of benefits paid.

With a confirmed Commissioner at the helm, SSA already is making progress in reducing wait times and streamlining administrative processes. But continued progress will depend on Congress fully funding the President's request for FY 2025, and on restoring SSA's administrative budget to 1.2 percent of benefits paid in future years. Increasing SSA's spending authority does not add to the deficit. Those costs are paid from the Social Security Trust Funds, funded by American workers. **Those workers not only deserve excellent customer service, they have already paid for it.**

We urge you to fully fund the \$15.4 billion requested by the President for SSA in FY 2025 in order to give SSA the tools it needs to strengthen services and reduce excessive delays faced every day by Americans who are trying to access the benefits they have earned.

Sincerely,

Access Ready, Inc

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Health and Disability

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

Caring Across Generations

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Family Voices

Huntington's Disease Society of America

Justice in Aging

Lakeshore Foundation

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Association of Disability Representatives (NADR)

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Disability Institute (NDI)

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR)

National PLAN Alliance (NPA)

RespectAbility

The Arc of the US

United Spinal Association