



SOCIAL SECURITY WORKS
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September 2, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Wyden, Chairman Neal and Chairman Pallone:

As you get closer to finalizing the reconciliation package, we would be remiss not to make one final outreach for our priorities: expanding Medicare, investing in Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and improving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). At this moment, the American people need your leadership to ensure the best versions of all of these priorities are included in the reconciliation. Rather than being in competition, we believe all of our priorities will play synergistic roles, significantly expanding the economic security of the American people.

We knew that writing this package would be difficult and are very appreciative of your commitment to seniors and people with disabilities throughout this process. The compromise package of \$3.5 trillion is much smaller than we believe the American people need, but provides an historic opportunity for Congress to make a significant investment in the lives of seniors, people with disabilities and all who hope to become seniors one day. We have started to hear that some members and corporate lobbyists see these priorities as competing but, to repeat, they are complementary. It is imperative that these priorities are not viewed as taking resources from one another.

Americans need a major investment in HCBS and they need Medicare to have the power to negotiate prescription drug prices. People need to become eligible for Medicare sooner. They desperately need an out-of-pocket cap for Medicare and they need hearing, dental, and vision services. The lowest income seniors and people with disabilities have been waiting five decades for many of the updates to SSI.

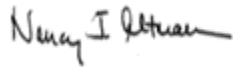
The SSI improvements will allow people to stay out of institutions and take advantage of the home and community-based services. The Medicare improvements will help everyone, including the current 2.5 million Americans who receive both Social Security and SSI. Lowering

prescription drug prices will not only improve health; it will make all of the improvements more affordable.

In the wealthiest nation in the world, we can afford every single policy improvement. All of these priorities are popular across the country, many were included in the Democratic platform, and, most importantly, they will dramatically improve the lives of millions of Americans.

We are confident in your ability to unite behind these priorities. We stand ready to provide any assistance or expertise you may need before you pass this final bill. We look forward to seeing all of these desperately needed improvements included in the final bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Altman
President



Alex Lawson
Executive Director