

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Frank Bisignano
Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Commissioner Bisignano:

On Sunday, the *Washington Post* reported that the Trump Administration is preparing a disastrous plan to deny Social Security disability benefits to hundreds of thousands of older Americans with disabilities.

The proposal that President Trump is reportedly considering would either remove age as a factor in eligibility for Social Security disability benefits or increase it from age 50 to 60. If finalized, it has been estimated that this would be the largest cut to Social Security disability benefits in the modern history of our country.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy, I am writing to urge you not to move forward with this absurd proposal.

Each and every year, more than 30,000 Americans die waiting for the Social Security disability benefits they have earned thanks to a grossly under-staffed and under-resourced Social Security Administration.

This proposal would make a bad situation horrifically worse. If implemented, it would be a death sentence for older Americans with disabilities who desperately need these Social Security benefits. That would be unacceptable.

In America today, 27 percent of people with disabilities are living in poverty. The average Social Security disability benefit is less than \$19,000 a year. Without these meager benefits, people with disabilities in Vermont and all over this country would be unable to survive. In the richest country in the history of the world, we cannot allow that to happen.

In a recent post on X, you wrote "Let me be clear: President Trump and I will always protect, and never cut, Social Security."

Well, Commissioner Bisignano: Let me be clear: Taking away Social Security disability benefits from older Americans would be a massive cut to Social Security. It would break President Trump's repeated promise not to cut this essential life-saving program.

I urge you to immediately reject it and make it easier, not harder, for older Americans to receive the benefits they have earned and that they deserve.

At a time when nearly half of older workers have no retirement savings and 22 percent of seniors are trying to survive on less than \$15,000 a year, our job must not be to cut Social Security. Our job must be to expand Social Security benefits and extend the solvency of this program for generations to come by making sure the wealthiest people in this country pay their fair share of taxes.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Sanders", with a stylized, cursive script.

BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR