

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to permanently appropriate funding for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to permanently appropriate funding for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Keep Billionaires Out of Social Security Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Exempting Social Security from the jurisdiction of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the application of certain executive orders.
- Sec. 3. Access by political appointees and special government employees.
- Sec. 4. Limitations on authority of Social Security Administration to except positions from competitive service and transfer positions.
- Sec. 5. Requiring that only deceased individuals be added to the Death Master File.
- Sec. 6. Closure of field and hearing offices and resident or rural contact stations.
- Sec. 7. Reestablishing the Offices of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity, Transformation, and Analytics, Review, and Oversight.
- Sec. 8. Funding for administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration.
- Sec. 9. Additional funding to improve Social Security customer experience.
- Sec. 10. Codification of former policy regarding recovery of Social Security overpayments.
- Sec. 11. State grants to protect the legal rights of SSI and SSDI applicants and beneficiaries.
- Sec. 12. Social Security assistance and representation grants.

3 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM THE JURIS-**
4 **DICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERN-**
5 **MENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) AND THE APPLI-**
6 **CATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the agencies, per-
8 sonnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in
9 subsection (b)—

10 (1) DOGE shall have no authority or jurisdic-
11 tion; and

12 (2) the executive orders described in subsection

13 (c) shall not apply.

14 (b) COVERED AGENCIES, PERSONNEL, SYSTEMS,
15 AND BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS.—The agencies, per-

1 sonnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in
2 this subsection are the Social Security Administration, any
3 officer or employee of the Social Security Administration,
4 the data, information technology, and operating systems
5 of the Social Security Administration, and any benefits or
6 program administered by the Social Security Administra-
7 tion, including the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and
8 Disability Insurance programs and associated benefits
9 under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401
10 et seq.).

11 (c) EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The executive orders de-
12 scribed in this subsection are—

13 (1) Executive Orders 14158, 14210, 14219,
14 and 14222 (90 Fed. Reg. 8441, 9669, 10583,
15 11095); and

16 (2) any other executive order relating to any
17 entity described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5).

18 (d) DOGE.—For purposes of this section, the term
19 “DOGE” means—

20 (1) the United States DOGE Service;

21 (2) the United States DOGE Service Tem-
22 porary Organization;

23 (3) any DOGE team (as defined in any of the
24 executive orders described in subsection (c)(1));

1 (4) any entity established in accordance with, or
2 to implement, any executive order described in sub-
3 section (c); and

4 (5) any successor entity to an entity described
5 in paragraphs (1) through (4).

6 **SEC. 3. ACCESS BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES AND SPECIAL**
7 **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1106 of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1306) is amended by adding after sub-
10 section (g) the following new subsections:

11 “(h) ACCESS BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES AND SPE-
12 CIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

14 “(A) PROHIBITION ON ACCESS TO BENE-
15 FICIARY DATA SYSTEMS.—Notwithstanding any
16 other subsection of this section, an individual
17 who is a political appointee (as that term is de-
18 fined in section 4(a) of the Edward ‘Ted’ Kauf-
19 man and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transi-
20 tions Improvements Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C.
21 3101 note)) or a special government employee
22 (as that term is defined in section 202(a) of
23 title 18, United States Code) may not access a
24 beneficiary data system.

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
2 shall not apply with respect to a political ap-
3 pointee or special government employee who has
4 been appointed to, or is employed in, a position
5 within the Social Security Administration with
6 responsibility to research, analyze, or improve
7 the delivery of benefits to program recipients.

8 “(2) BENEFICIARY DATA SYSTEM DEFINED.—
9 In this section, the term ‘beneficiary data system’
10 means a system that is maintained by the Social Se-
11 curity Administration for the purposes of admin-
12 istering this Act that—

13 “(A) issues or records social security ac-
14 count numbers;

15 “(B) is used to determine eligibility for
16 benefits under this Act;

17 “(C) to pay benefits under this Act; or

18 “(D) otherwise contains records of person-
19 ally identifiable information, personal health in-
20 formation, or federal tax information of individ-
21 uals receiving or applying for a benefit under
22 this Act.

23 “(i) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(A) DISCLOSURE OR ACCESS BY EM-
2 PLOYEE OF UNITED STATES.—If any officer or
3 employee of the United States negligently dis-
4 closes or accesses any information that pertains
5 to an individual in violation of any provision of
6 subsection (a) or (h), such individual may bring
7 a civil action for damages against the United
8 States in a district court of the United States.

9 “(B) DISCLOSURE OR ACCESS BY A PER-
10 SON WHO IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF UNITED
11 STATES.—If any person who is not an officer or
12 employee of the United States negligently dis-
13 closes or accesses any information that pertains
14 to an individual in violation of any provision of
15 subsection (a) or (h), such individual may bring
16 a civil action for damages against such person
17 in a district court of the United States.

18 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—No liability shall arise
19 under this section with respect to any disclosure or
20 access—

21 “(A) which results from a good faith, but
22 erroneous, interpretation of subsection (a) or
23 (h); or

24 “(B) which is requested by the individual.

1 “(3) DAMAGES.—In any action brought under
2 paragraph (1), upon a finding of liability on the part
3 of the defendant, the defendant shall be liable to the
4 plaintiff in an amount equal to the sum of—

5 “(A) the greater of—

6 “(i) \$5,000 for each act of unauthor-
7 ized access or disclosure with respect to
8 which such defendant is found liable; or

9 “(ii) the sum of—

10 “(I) the actual damages sus-
11 tained by the plaintiff as a result of
12 such unauthorized access or disclo-
13 sure, plus

14 “(II) in the case of a willful ac-
15 cess or disclosure or an access or dis-
16 closure which is the result of gross
17 negligence, punitive damages, plus

18 “(B) the costs of the action, plus

19 “(C) reasonable attorneys fees, except that
20 if the defendant is the United States, reason-
21 able attorneys fees may be awarded only if the
22 plaintiff is the prevailing party.

23 “(4) PERIOD FOR BRINGING ACTION.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of law, an action to en-
25 force any liability created under this section may be

1 brought, without regard to the amount in con-
2 troversy, at any time within 5 years after the date
3 of discovery by the plaintiff of the unauthorized dis-
4 closure or access.

5 “(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—It shall be unlawful for
6 any officer or employee of the United States to willfully
7 to disclose to any person any information that pertains
8 to an individual in violation of any provision of subsection
9 (a) or (h). Any violation of this subsection shall be a felony
10 punishable upon conviction by a fine in any amount not
11 exceeding \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5
12 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, and,
13 in addition to any other punishment, such officer or em-
14 ployee shall be dismissed from office or discharged from
15 employment upon conviction for such offense.

16 “(k) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—

17 “(1) INVESTIGATION.—The Inspector General
18 of the Social Security Administration shall inves-
19 tigate each disclosure in violation of subsection (a)
20 and each access of a beneficiary data system in vio-
21 lation of subsection (h).

22 “(2) TREATMENT OF DISCLOSURE OR AC-
23 CESS.—For the purposes of this subsection, the In-
24 spector General may, if the Inspector General deter-

1 mines appropriate, treat a series of violations of sub-
2 section (a) or (h) as a single violation.

3 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after
4 the Inspector General becomes aware of a violation
5 of subsection (a) or (h), the Inspector General shall
6 submit to Congress a report on such violation, which
7 shall include—

8 “(A) a detailed description of the violation;

9 “(B) a risk assessment of any threat to the
10 privacy of any individual whose information was
11 disclosed or accessed, national security, cyberse-
12 curity, or the integrity of the applicable bene-
13 ficiary data system as a result of the violation;
14 and

15 “(C) a detailed description of any stopped
16 payment during the unauthorized use or ac-
17 cess.”.

18 (b) PRIVACY REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding this
19 section and the amendments made by this section, part
20 401 of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in
21 effect on January 19, 2025, shall have the force and effect
22 of law.

23 (c) GAO STUDY AND INTERIM REPORTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller

1 of the United States shall submit to the Committee
2 on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on
3 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a
4 report including the following information:

5 (A) The results of a study on the effects
6 of the changes made to section 1106 of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306) by this sec-
8 tion and any subsequently enacted law.

9 (B) Any civil actions brought under sub-
10 section (i) of section 1106 of such Act, as
11 added by subsection (a), including the results of
12 such civil action.

13 (C) A summary of any investigations con-
14 ducted under subsection (k) of section 1106 of
15 such Act, as added by subsection (a).

16 (D) Any convictions for a violation of sub-
17 section (a) or (h) of section 1106 of such Act
18 under subsection (j) of such Act, as added by
19 subsection (a).

20 (2) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 1
21 month after the date of enactment of this Act, and
22 monthly thereafter until such time as the report re-
23 quired under paragraph (1) is submitted, the Comp-
24 troller of the United States shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
2 Senate an interim report on the information re-
3 quired under paragraph (1), including the status of
4 the study described in subparagraph (A) of such
5 paragraph.

6 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall apply to viola-
8 tions of section 1106 of the Social Security Act occurring
9 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

11 **ADMINISTRATION TO EXCEPT POSITIONS**
12 **FROM COMPETITIVE SERVICE AND TRANS-**
13 **FER POSITIONS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

15 (1) the term “Administration” means the Social
16 Security Administration;

17 (2) the term “Commissioner” means the Com-
18 missioner of Social Security;

19 (3) the term “competitive service” has the
20 meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5,
21 United States Code;

22 (4) the term “Director” means the Director of
23 the Office of Personnel Management; and

1 (5) the term “excepted service” has the mean-
2 ing given the term in section 2103 of title 5, United
3 States Code.

4 (b) LIMITATIONS.—A position in the competitive
5 service in the Administration may not be excepted from
6 the competitive service unless that position is placed—

7 (1) in any of schedules A through E, as de-
8 scribed in section 6.2 of title 5, Code of Federal
9 Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020;
10 and

11 (2) under the terms and conditions under part
12 6 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect
13 on September 30, 2020.

14 (c) TRANSFERS.—

15 (1) WITHIN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—A position in
16 the excepted service in the Administration may not
17 be transferred to any schedule other than a schedule
18 described in subsection (b)(1).

19 (2) OPM CONSENT REQUIRED.—The Commis-
20 sioner may not transfer any occupied position in the
21 Administration from the competitive service or the
22 excepted service into schedule C of subpart C of part
23 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
24 successor regulations, without the prior consent of
25 the Director.

1 (3) LIMIT DURING PRESIDENTIAL TERM.—Dur-
2 ing any 4-year presidential term, the Commissioner
3 may not transfer from a position in the competitive
4 service in the Administration to a position in the ex-
5 cepted service in the Administration the greater of
6 the following:

7 (A) A total number of employees that is
8 more than 1 percent of the total number of em-
9 ployees employed by the Administration, as of
10 the first day of that presidential term.

11 (B) 5 employees.

12 (4) EMPLOYEE CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
13 standing any other provision of this section—

14 (A) an employee who occupies a position in
15 the excepted service in the Administration may
16 not be transferred to an excepted service sched-
17 ule other than the schedule in which that posi-
18 tion is located without the prior written consent
19 of the employee; and

20 (B) an employee who occupies a position in
21 the competitive service in the Administration
22 may not be transferred to the excepted service
23 without the prior written consent of the em-
24 ployee.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than March 15 of each cal-
2 endar year, the Director shall submit to Congress a report
3 on the immediately preceding calendar year that lists—

4 (1) each position in the Administration that,
5 during the year covered by the report, was trans-
6 ferred from the competitive service to the excepted
7 service and a justification as to why each such posi-
8 tion was so transferred; and

9 (2) any violation of this section that occurred
10 during the year covered by the report.

11 (e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue reg-
13 ulations to implement this section.

14 **SEC. 5. REQUIRING THAT ONLY DECEASED INDIVIDUALS**
15 **BE ADDED TO THE DEATH MASTER FILE.**

16 Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17 405(r)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (7)—

19 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
20 (A), by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “and”;

23 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
24 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following new
2 subparagraph:

3 “(C) notify any agency that has a coopera-
4 tive arrangement with the Commissioner of So-
5 cial Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the
6 error.”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraph:

9 “(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not
10 record a death to a record that may be provided under
11 this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of
12 Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evi-
13 dence to support that the individual should be presumed
14 to be deceased.”.

15 **SEC. 6. CLOSURE OF FIELD AND HEARING OFFICES AND**
16 **RESIDENT OR RURAL CONTACT STATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 704 of the Social Security
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 904) is amended by adding at the end the
19 following new subsection:

20 “Access to Field and Hearing Offices and Live Telephone
21 Operator Services

22 “(f)(1) The Commissioner of Social Security shall—
23 “(A) maintain, at a minimum, the same num-
24 ber of field and hearing offices of the Social Security
25 Administration that existed on January 1, 2025;

1 “(B) not close, or reduce the level of services
2 provided by, any field office, hearing office, or resi-
3 dent station of the Administration that existed on
4 January 1, 2025, except in the case of a short-term
5 emergency or relocation;

6 “(C) maintain meaningful and efficient access
7 to live operator assistance; and

8 “(D) not later than 12 months after the date
9 of enactment of the Keep Billionaires Out of Social
10 Security Act, significantly improve telephone wait
11 times, callback times, and average service times for
12 beneficiaries and applicants, as compared to the av-
13 erage levels for such times during calendar year
14 2024.

15 “(2) The Commissioner may make recommendations
16 to Congress proposing field or hearing office location
17 changes, consolidations, or closures from time to time.

18 “(3) The Commissioner may—

19 “(A) establish new field or hearing offices in
20 addition to those that existed on January 1, 2025;
21 and

22 “(B) expand the level of services offered by a
23 field or hearing office beyond what such office of-
24 fered on January 1, 2025.

1 “(4) The Commissioner shall not limit public access
2 to any field or hearing office of the Administration, or the
3 staff of any such office, that existed on January 1, 2025.

4 “(5) The Commissioner shall not reduce the number
5 of employees of the Administration (as determined on an
6 annual basis) below the number of employees of the Ad-
7 ministration that were employed during calendar year
8 2024.

9 “(6) The Administration shall not be subject to any
10 hiring freeze, hiring prohibition, reduction in force order,
11 or similar policy, and, notwithstanding any such freeze,
12 prohibition, order, or policy, the Commissioner shall have
13 the authority to hire new employees if the Commissioner
14 deems it necessary to improve services provided by the Ad-
15 ministration to beneficiaries and applicants of the pro-
16 grams established under this Act.

17 “(7) The Commissioner shall establish an online op-
18 tion, in accessible formats, for beneficiaries and applicants
19 to apply, make benefit claims, and make changes to direct
20 deposit information.”.

21 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment
22 made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on Jan-
23 uary 1, 2025, and any actions taken by the Commissioner
24 of Social Security or any other officer of the executive

1 branch that are inconsistent with such amendment shall
2 be reversed.

3 **SEC. 7. REESTABLISHING THE OFFICES OF CIVIL RIGHTS**
4 **AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, TRANS-**
5 **FORMATION, AND ANALYTICS, REVIEW, AND**
6 **OVERSIGHT.**

7 Section 702 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 902) is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 subsections:

10 “(f) CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Ad-
12 ministration an Office of Civil Rights and Equal Op-
13 portunity. The head of the Office of Civil Rights and
14 Equal Opportunity shall be the Deputy Commis-
15 sioner of Civil Rights, who shall—

16 “(A) be appointed by the Commissioner;

17 “(B) as of the date on which the appoint-
18 ment described in subparagraph (A) is made, be
19 serving as a career appointee (as defined in sec-
20 tion 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code) in
21 the Social Security Administration; and

22 “(C) exercise such duties as are appro-
23 priate for the Office of Civil Rights and Equal
24 Opportunity of the Administration and in ac-
25 cordance with Federal civil rights laws.

1 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Civil
2 Rights and Equal Opportunity shall be responsible
3 for the management of the Administration’s pro-
4 grams of civil rights and equal opportunity, includ-
5 ing the development of the Administration’s civil
6 rights and equal opportunity policies, regulations,
7 procedures, and enforcement of the Americans with
8 Disabilities Act of 1990 and sections 501, 504, and
9 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 pertaining to
10 the development of affirmative action employment
11 and equal opportunity programs to cultivate a di-
12 verse and inclusive environment, which shall in-
13 clude—

14 “(A) planning, implementing, and directing
15 programs designed to ensure equal opportunity
16 in employment for all employees regardless of
17 race, color, national origin, religion, age, dis-
18 ability, genetic information, or sex;

19 “(B) processing, adjudicating, and resolv-
20 ing complaints of discrimination in compliance
21 with all applicable laws, regulations, and other
22 guidance issued by the Equal Employment Op-
23 portunity Commission;

1 “(C) directing and managing the Adminis-
2 tration’s reasonable accommodation program
3 for employees with disabilities; and

4 “(D) developing and maintaining all nec-
5 essary information systems to manage the Ad-
6 ministration’s equal opportunity programs, de-
7 velop reliable statistical data analyses, and
8 track workloads.

9 “(g) TRANSFORMATION.—There shall be in the Ad-
10 ministration an Office of Transformation. The head of the
11 Office of Transformation shall be the Deputy Commis-
12 sioner of Transformation, who shall—

13 “(1) be appointed by the Commissioner;

14 “(2) as of the date on which the appointment
15 described in paragraph (1) is made, be serving as a
16 career appointee (as defined in section 3132(a) of
17 title 5, United States Code) in the Social Security
18 Administration; and

19 “(3) exercise such duties as are appropriate for
20 the Office of Transformation of the Administration,
21 which shall include strategic guidance and oversight
22 of the Administration’s initiatives, addressing poli-
23 cies, business processes, and systems, including cus-
24 tomer service-related systems and projects and re-

1 solving delays and ensure successful implementation
2 of such systems and projects.

3 “(h) ANALYTICS, REVIEW, AND OVERSIGHT.—There
4 shall be in the Administration an Office of Analytics, Re-
5 view, and Oversight. The head of the Office of Analytics,
6 Review, and Oversight shall be the Deputy Commissioner
7 of Analytics, Review, and Oversight, who shall—

8 “(1) be appointed by the Commissioner;

9 “(2) as of the date on which the appointment
10 described in paragraph (1) is made, be serving as a
11 career appointee (as defined in section 3132(a) of
12 title 5, United States Code) in the Social Security
13 Administration;

14 “(3) exercise such duties as are appropriate for
15 the Office of Analytics, Review, and Oversight of the
16 Administration which shall include reviewing pro-
17 gram quality and effectiveness, making recommenda-
18 tions for program improvement, and coordinating
19 the detection and prevention of fraud.”.

20 **SEC. 8. FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE**
21 **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(g)(1)(A) of the Social
23 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

24 (1) in the third sentence of the matter following
25 clause (ii), by striking “the costs of the part of the

1 administration of this title, title VIII, title XVI, and
2 title XVIII for which the Commissioner of Social Se-
3 curity is responsible,”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following: “For
5 each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026,
6 there is hereby appropriated to pay the costs of the
7 part of the administration of this title, title VIII,
8 and title XVI for which the Commissioner of Social
9 Security is responsible an amount equal to 1.2 per-
10 cent of the sum of the amount of benefit payments
11 required to be made under this title for the fiscal
12 year involved and the amount of benefit payments
13 expected to be paid under titles VIII and XVI for
14 the fiscal year involved, as estimated by the Chief
15 Actuary of the Social Security Administration. For
16 purposes of the preceding sentence, (I) the portion
17 of the amount to be appropriated for a fiscal year
18 that is attributable to benefit payments required to
19 be made under this title shall be appropriated from
20 the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust
21 Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust
22 Fund, in such proportion as the Commissioner of
23 Social Security shall determine, and (II) the portion
24 of the amount to be appropriated for a fiscal year
25 that is attributable to benefit payments expected to

1 be made under titles VIII and XVI shall be appro-
2 priated from the general fund of the Treasury. For
3 each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026,
4 there is hereby appropriated from the Federal Hos-
5 pital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supple-
6 mentary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, in such
7 proportion as the Administrator of the Centers for
8 Medicare & Medicaid Services shall determine, such
9 sums as are necessary to pay the costs of the part
10 of the administration of title XVIII for which the
11 Commissioner of Social Security is responsible.”.

12 (b) REMOVING THE LIMITATION ON THE ADMINIS-
13 TRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINIS-
14 TRATION FROM DISCRETIONARY BUDGET CAPS, THE
15 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION, THE 302(a) AL-
16 LOCATIONS AND THE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS.—

17 (1) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
18 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND PARTS OF
19 MEDICARE FROM ALL BUDGETS.—Section 13301(a)
20 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C.
21 632 note) is amended to read as follows:

22 “(a) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF
23 SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND PARTS OF MEDICARE FROM
24 ALL BUDGETS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
2 provision of law, the receipts and disbursements de-
3 scribed in paragraph (2) and the costs of program
4 integrity activities described in paragraph (3) shall
5 not be counted as new budget authority, outlays, re-
6 ceipts, or deficit or surplus for purposes of—

7 “(A) the budget of the United States Gov-
8 ernment as submitted by the President under
9 section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

10 “(B) a concurrent resolution on the budg-
11 et;

12 “(C) the Balanced Budget and Emergency
13 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et
14 seq.); or

15 “(D) the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of
16 2010 (2 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

17 “(2) RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS COV-
18 ERED.—The receipts and disbursements described in
19 this paragraph are—

20 “(A) the receipts and disbursements of the
21 Federal Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund and
22 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund,
23 including the costs of the part of the adminis-
24 tration of title II of the Social Security Act for

1 which the Commissioner of Social Security is
2 responsible; and

3 “(B) the receipts and disbursements from
4 the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund,
5 the Federal Supplementary Insurance Trust
6 Fund, and amounts appropriated for the Sup-
7 plemental Security Income program and for
8 benefits paid to certain World War II veterans
9 under title VIII of the Social Security Act for
10 the costs of the part of the administration of ti-
11 tles VIII, XVI, and XVIII of such Act for
12 which the Commissioner of Social Security is
13 responsible.

14 “(3) PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACTIVITIES.—The
15 costs of program integrity activities described in this
16 paragraph are costs associated with—

17 “(A) continuing disability reviews under ti-
18 tles II and XVI of the Social Security Act;

19 “(B) conducting redeterminations of eligi-
20 bility under title XVI of such Act;

21 “(C) co-operative disability investigation
22 units; and

23 “(D) the prosecution of fraud in the pro-
24 grams and operations of the Social Security Ad-

1 ministration by Special Assistant United States
2 Attorneys.”.

3 (2) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
4 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND PARTS OF
5 MEDICARE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
6 RESOLUTION.—Section 301(a) of the Congressional
7 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended
8 by striking the matter following paragraph (7) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “The concurrent resolution shall not include in the surplus
11 or deficit totals required by this subsection or in any other
12 surplus or deficit totals required by this title the outlays
13 and revenue totals of the program under title II of the
14 Social Security Act, or the related provisions of the Inter-
15 nal Revenue Code of 1986, including the costs of the part
16 of the administration of such title II for which the Com-
17 missioner of Social Security is responsible or the costs of
18 the part of the administration of titles XVI and XVIII
19 of the Social Security Act for which the Commissioner of
20 Social Security is responsible.”.

21 (3) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
22 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND PARTS OF
23 MEDICARE FROM CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
24 302(a) ALLOCATIONS.—Section 302(a)(1) of the
25 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C.

1 633(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing: “The allocation under this paragraph shall
3 not include the outlays of the program under title II
4 of the Social Security Act, including the costs of the
5 part of the administration of such title for which the
6 Commissioner of Social Security is responsible, or
7 the outlays for the costs of the part of the adminis-
8 tration of titles XVI and XVIII of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act for which the Commissioner of Social Secu-
10 rity is responsible.”.

11 (4) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
12 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND PARTS OF
13 MEDICARE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
14 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS.—Section 302(b) of the
15 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(b))
16 is amended by adding at the end the following: “The
17 suballocation under this subsection shall not include
18 the outlays of the program under title II of the So-
19 cial Security Act, including the costs of the part of
20 the administration of such title for which the Com-
21 missioner of Social Security is responsible, or the
22 outlays for the costs of the part of the administra-
23 tion of titles XVI and XVIII of the Social Security
24 Act for which the Commissioner of Social Security
25 is responsible.”.

1 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be
3 construed to reduce or eliminate the authority of the Com-
4 mittees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives
5 and the Senate to oversee or direct outlays for the costs
6 of the part of the administration under title II of the So-
7 cial Security Act, or the outlays for the costs of the part
8 of the administration of titles XVI and XVIII of the Social
9 Security Act, for which the Commissioner of Social Secu-
10 rity is responsible.

11 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

13 **SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SECU-**
14 **RITY CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated to the
16 Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this sec-
17 tion as the “Commissioner”) for the period of fiscal year
18 2026 through fiscal year 2035, out of any money in the
19 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$2,000,000,000, to
20 remain available until expended, to be used by the Com-
21 missioner for the following purposes:

22 (1) To conduct efforts to increase awareness of
23 eligibility for supplemental security income benefits
24 among families with children who may be eligible for
25 such benefits, with such efforts to be conducted

1 throughout the United States to ensure families of
2 children with disabilities have awareness of the pro-
3 gram, its eligibility standards, and how to apply.

4 (2) To reduce the initial disability insurance
5 benefit claims backlog and other disability insurance
6 benefit workloads, as well as backlogs and workloads
7 relating to claims for benefits under title II or XVI
8 of the Social Security Act which involve a disability
9 determination (including appeals), including by di-
10 recting resources and workload assistance to areas
11 with the greatest need.

12 (3) Maintaining, expanding, modernizing, or en-
13 hancing the information technology capabilities and
14 infrastructure of the Social Security Administration,
15 while ensuring that delivery of benefits continues un-
16 interrupted.

17 (4) Increasing the menu of services that can be
18 performed online, including an application for bene-
19 fits under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

20 (b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
22 thereafter, the Commissioner shall submit to Congress a
23 report on the actions being undertaken by the Social Secu-
24 rity Administration to address the issues described in
25 paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 10. CODIFICATION OF FORMER POLICY REGARDING**
2 **RECOVERY OF SOCIAL SECURITY OVERPAY-**
3 **MENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1)(A) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “With respect to payment” and
7 inserting “(i) Subject to clause (ii), with respect to
8 payment”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new
10 clause:

11 “(ii)(I) With respect to adjustment or re-
12 covery on account of an overpayment pursuant
13 to clause (i), the amount of any monthly benefit
14 payable to such person under this title shall be
15 decreased by the Commissioner of Social Secu-
16 rity by an amount equal to the greater of—

17 “(aa) 10 percent of such monthly ben-
18 efit, or

19 “(bb) \$10.

20 “(II) Subclause (I) shall not apply in the
21 case of a person who—

22 “(aa) received payment of more than
23 the correct amount as a result of fraud or
24 similar fault (as defined in section
25 205(u)(2)), or

1 “(bb) elects to waive application of
2 such subclause and requests that the Com-
3 missioner of Social Security impose a
4 greater decrease in the amount of monthly
5 benefits payable to such person under this
6 title than the amount otherwise determined
7 under such subclause.”.

8 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
9 this section shall apply with respect to overpayment deter-
10 minations made on or after March 25, 2024, and to any
11 other overpaid amounts that have not been recovered as
12 of such date.

13 **SEC. 11. STATE GRANTS TO PROTECT THE LEGAL RIGHTS**
14 **OF SSI AND SSDI APPLICANTS AND BENE-**
15 **FICIARIES.**

16 Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301
17 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1150C the
18 following new section:

19 **“SEC. 1150D. STATE GRANTS TO PROTECT THE LEGAL**
20 **RIGHTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY AND**
21 **DISABILITY INSURANCE APPLICANTS AND**
22 **BENEFICIARIES.**

23 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commissioner may make
24 payments in each State to the protection and advocacy
25 system established pursuant to part C of title I of the De-

1 velopmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
2 for the purpose of protecting the legal rights of bene-
3 ficiaries with a disability.

4 “(b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided to
5 beneficiaries with a disability pursuant to a payment made
6 under this section may include—

7 “(1) information and advice about accessing
8 and applying for benefits under title II or title XVI
9 on the basis of a disability and appealing eligibility
10 decisions with respect to such benefits;

11 “(2) advocacy and other services that a bene-
12 ficiary with a disability may need related to such
13 benefits; and

14 “(3) services described in section 1150(b).

15 “(c) APPLICATION.—In order to receive payments
16 under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall
17 submit an application to the Commissioner, at such time,
18 in such form and manner, and accompanied by such infor-
19 mation and assurances as the Commissioner may require.

20 “(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the amount ap-
22 propriated for a fiscal year for making payments
23 under this section, a protection and advocacy system
24 shall not be paid an amount that is less than—

1 “(A) in the case of a protection and advoca-
2 cacy system located in one of the 50 States, the
3 District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, \$200,000;
4 and

5 “(B) in the case of a protection and advoca-
6 cacy system located in Guam, American Samoa,
7 the United States Virgin Islands, or the Com-
8 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
9 \$100,000.

10 “(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal
11 year in which the total amount appropriated to carry
12 out this section exceeds the total amount appro-
13 priated to carry out this section in the preceding fis-
14 cal year, the Commissioner shall increase each min-
15 imum payment under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
16 paragraph (1) by a percentage equal to the percent-
17 age increase in the total amount so appropriated to
18 carry out this section.

19 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each protection and advoca-
20 cacy system that receives a payment under this section
21 shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner on the
22 services provided to individuals by the system.

23 “(f) FUNDING.—

24 “(1) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
25 under this section shall be made from amounts made

1 available for the administration of title II and
2 amounts made available for the administration of
3 title XVI, and shall be allocated among those
4 amounts as appropriate.

5 “(2) CARRYOVER.—Any amounts allotted for
6 payment to a protection and advocacy system under
7 this section for a fiscal year shall remain available
8 for payment to or on behalf of the protection and
9 advocacy system until the end of the succeeding fis-
10 cal year.

11 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) BENEFICIARY WITH A DISABILITY.—The
13 term ‘beneficiary with a disability’ means an indi-
14 vidual who—

15 “(A) is a title II disability beneficiary or a
16 title XVI disability beneficiary (as such terms
17 are defined under section 1148(k));

18 “(B) is an applicant or prospective appli-
19 cant for benefits under title II or title XVI on
20 the basis that such individual has a disability;

21 “(C) is requesting a hearing under section
22 221(d) or for an administrative review prior to
23 such hearing; or

24 “(D) is filing a request for reinstatement
25 of entitled under section 223(i)(1)(A).

1 “(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-
2 sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

3 “(3) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM.—
4 The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a
5 protection and advocacy system established pursuant
6 to part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities
7 Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

8 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

11 SEC. 12. SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTA-
12 TION GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year during the 5-year period beginning with fiscal year 2026, the Commissioner shall award not less than 10 grants under this section to community-based organizations for the purpose of assisting individuals with disabilities—

(1) during the process of applying for benefits
under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act (42
U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) on the basis of a
disability;

(2) any appeals processes before the Commissioner, an administrative judge of the Social Security Administration, or a State Disability Determination Services office; and

1 (3) in accessing such benefits.

2 (b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

3 (1) DURATION AND AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A
4 grant awarded to a community-based organization
5 under this section—

6 (A) shall be for an amount that is not less
7 than \$500,000; and

8 (B) shall be for a period of 5 years.

9 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds shall only be
10 used for a purpose described in subsection (a).

11 (c) APPLICATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
13 this section, a community-based organization shall
14 submit an application to the Commissioner, at such
15 time and in such form and manner and accompanied
16 by such information and assurances as the Commis-
17 sioner may require.

18 (2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application
19 for a grant under this section shall include the fol-
20 lowing information:

21 (A) The region to be served by the appli-
22 cant.

23 (B) A description of the needs of bene-
24 ficiaries with a disability in such region.

1 (C) A description of services to be provided
2 under such grant.

3 (D) The personnel that would provide such
4 services.

5 (E) The applicant's plan for disseminating
6 awareness of the services provided under the
7 grant to beneficiaries with a disability in the re-
8 gion.

9 (3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—An
10 application for a grant under this section shall in-
11 clude a memorandum of understanding among any
12 collaborating entities as to roles and allocation of
13 grant funds for each collaborating agency.

14 (4) ASSURANCE OF AVAILABILITY.—An applica-
15 tion for a grant under this section shall include a
16 commitment by the applicant that all services pro-
17 vided under the grant, including information about
18 such services, shall be accessible to beneficiaries with
19 a disability.

20 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

21 (1) BENEFICIARY WITH A DISABILITY.—The
22 term “beneficiary with a disability” has the meaning
23 given such term in section 1150D of the Social Se-
24 curity Act (as added by section 14).

1 (2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
2 sioner” means the Commissioner of Social Security.

3 (3) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
4 term “community-based organization” means a non-
5 profit agency or collaboration of non-profit agencies
6 that—

7 (A) serves a region of one or more States;

8 (B) includes—

9 (i) a legal team of lawyers licensed to
10 practice in the State or States served by
11 the organization;

12 (ii) experts in disability benefits pro-
13 vided under title II and XVI of the Social
14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381
15 et seq.), including application, and appeals
16 procedures under such titles; and

17 (iii) individuals currently receiving
18 benefits on the basis of a disability under
19 such a title, or who were beneficiaries
20 under such a title on the basis of a dis-
21 ability within the past 5 years; and

22 (C) is overseen by a board or advisory
23 group composed of at least $\frac{1}{3}$ members who are
24 current or former beneficiaries on the basis of

1 a disability under title II or XVI of the Social
2 Security Act.

3 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the 50
4 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
5 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the
6 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

7 (e) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the
8 Commissioner, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,
9 \$15,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section.

10 (f) REPORTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each community-based or-
12 ganization that receives a grant under this sections
13 shall provide the Commissioner with—

14 (A) for each year of the grant period, an
15 annual report on the services provided; and

16 (B) at the conclusion of the grant period,
17 a final report of activities provided under the
18 grant.

19 (2) EVALUATION GRANT.—From the adminis-
20 trative funds of title II and title XVI, there shall be
21 awarded an evaluation grant to an independent enti-
22 ty to evaluate the impact of the grants under this
23 section. The amount to be awarded to the evaluation
24 entity shall be at least \$500,000 for each of the 5

- 1 years of the grant period and at least \$500,000 for
- 2 the 2 years following the grant period.