Keep Billionaires Out of Social Security Act
Senators Bernie Sanders, Ron Wyden, and Charles Schumer

Social Security is the most successful government program in our nation's history— helping millions of seniors, widows, dependent children, and people with disabilities live with dignity for nearly 90 years. Without Social Security, nearly 40 percent of people over age 65 would be living in poverty.

Yet, instead of making the federal government work for the American people, the Trump administration wants to take away Americans' earned benefits by burying them in bureaucracy. In just the last few months, the Administration has issued false statements and implemented short-sighted policy changes that harm Americans—calling Social Security a "Ponzi" scheme that pays dead people, closing offices, reducing staff, requiring in-person office visits, limiting access to live operator assistance, and more. Perhaps the most concerning is Trump giving the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) staff unfettered access to Americans' most sensitive information and weaponizing the agency's data to take away earned benefits.

For too long, the SSA has been underfunded, understaffed, and bogged down by bureaucratic hurdles that hurt ordinary Americans. While billionaires continue to rig the system in their favor, millions of hardworking seniors and disabled Americans are left struggling to access the benefits they've earned.

The Keep Billionaires Out of Social Security Act would put an end to these outrageous actions and rebuild the agency so it can provide quality customer service by:

1. **Protecting and improving field offices and staffing.** The bill protects Social Security field offices and staffing, prohibiting closures, service reductions, and relocations without congressional approval. It mandates staffing levels remain at least as high as pre-Trump Administration levels and ensures beneficiaries can speak with live operators rather than AI.
2. **Increasing funding.** The bill sets SSA's customer service funding at 1.2% of total benefit payments, a $5 billion increase from current levels. It also provides grants to modernize technology, reduce claims backlogs, and improve customer service.
3. **Improving access for beneficiaries.** The bill reinstates key offices like Civil Rights and Oversight, funds legal support grants for SSI and SSDI applicants, and limits overpayment collections to protect beneficiaries from excessive reductions.
4. **Protecting Americans' data.** The bill strengthens penalties for improperly disclosing or accessing sensitive Social Security records and blocks DOGE and political appointees from gaining access.
5. **Prevents politization of Social Security.** The bill limits political interference by restricting SSA's ability to replace its career public servants with political appointees and prevents SSA from manipulating its data to take away Americans' earned benefits.
6. **Removing DOGE's authority over SSA.** Under this bill, DOGE would have no authority over SSA and the Administration would not be subject to Trump's DOGE Executive Orders. It also calls for the SSA's Inspector General to investigate and report on what DOGE has done at SSA.

The American people have paid into Social Security all their lives. It's time to put working families ahead of billionaire greed. It's time to stand up for seniors, people with disabilities, and struggling families who depend on these benefits. It's time to fight back and protect Social Security for generations to come.