

A Letter to Congress: Act Now to Ensure Public Confidence in Social Security and Medicare

Social Security and Medicare are critical social insurance programs upon which millions of American workers and retirees rely. Lately, however, these programs have lacked a key component of public oversight. Specifically, for the past four years, the Boards of Trustees that look after these important national programs have been without the two Public Trustees, leading to a record-breaking period in which these positions have been vacant.

The Boards of Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds provide crucial oversight of Social Security and Medicare. The 1983 Social Security Amendments introduced the Public Trustees to serve as independent voices on the Boards. Detached from partisan politics and the perspective of any particular administration, the two Public Trustees report on the status of the Trust Funds to Congress and the American people, helping to preserve public confidence in the financial management of Medicare and Social Security.

These positions have been vacant since 2015, violating the intent of federal law and depriving Congress and the public of key objective insights into the health of the Trust Funds. It is imperative that the vacancies are filled expeditiously to ensure the proper monitoring and safeguarding of the funds that help provide a secure financial foundation for millions of Americans. This is especially true at a time when both programs face significant long-range financing challenges.

We urge the United States Senate to act on the pending nominees as soon as possible to provide independent and bipartisan oversight of the programs' finances.

Sincerely,

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