

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Chair, Consumer Protection
and Commerce

Environment and Climate Change
Oversight and Investigations

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

SENIOR CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

April 26, 2019

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Acting Commissioner Nancy A. Berryhill
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Dear Commissioner Berryhill,

We are dismayed that the Social Security Administration has pursued anti-labor policies in contract negotiations with the union representing its 45,000 employees, the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE).

We are deeply concerned that the Social Security Administration may have deliberately precipitated a breakdown in negotiations by insisting on proposals that are both extreme and similar in anti-union tone to certain provisions of Executive Orders 13836, 13837, and 13839. They include:

- 1) eviction of the union from its tiny offices in SSA buildings;
- 2) confiscation of all computers, laptops and printers used by employees in their representational duties; and
- 3) denying employees, in their capacity as union representatives, the ability to assist other employees on work time unless management agrees in advance to allow them to do so.


Such extreme proposals make it appear that the Social Security Administration is seeking to circumvent the order of the United States District Court, that enjoined many provisions of the Executive Orders.

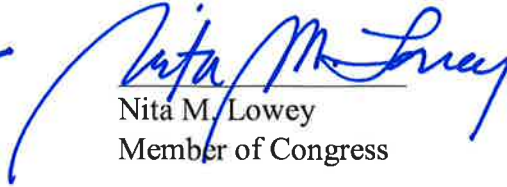
We insist that the Social Security Administration return to the bargaining table and resume collective bargaining with the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE) Social Security employees. If implemented by SSA, these proposals will diminish labor protections and the collective bargaining rights that Congress intended, and will have a severe, destabilizing effect on agency operations and employee morale and SSA's ability to deliver timely and efficient services to the elderly and persons with disabilities.

We strongly urge SSA to return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair labor contract in good faith with the American Federation of Government Employees. We look forward to hearing from you soon as to what actions SSA is taking to ensure its compliance with the District Court's order and a plan to return the parties to the bargaining table for bona fide good faith bargaining.

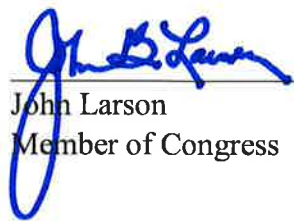
Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

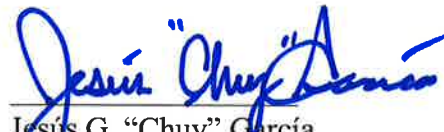

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

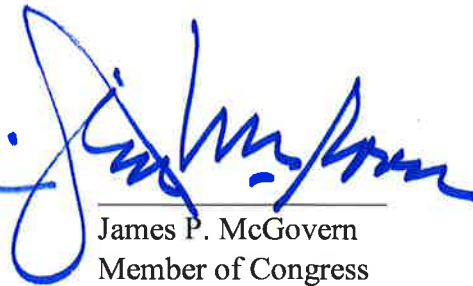

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

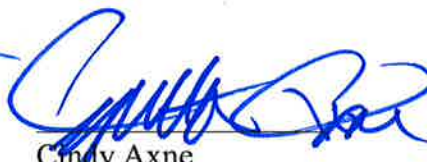

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

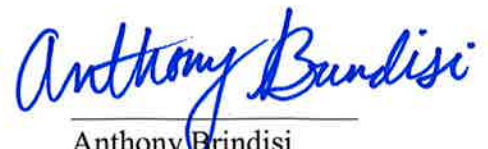

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress

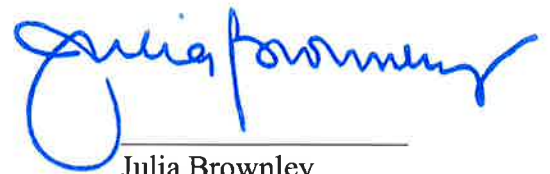

Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

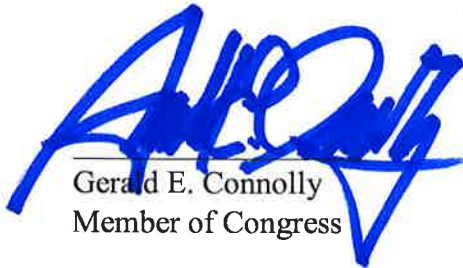

Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

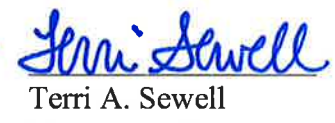

Gerald E. Connolly
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David N. Cicilline
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

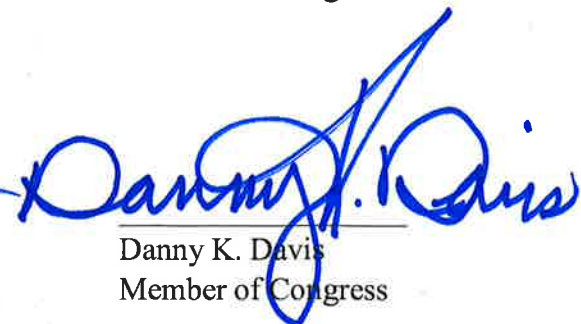

Bobby L. Rush
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Marcy Kaptur
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Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
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Cheri Bustos
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Conor Lamb
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Jennifer Wexton

Jennifer Wexton
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Bobby Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
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Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Katie Hill

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton
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Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer, Jr
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Katie Porter
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Earl Blumenauer
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Ayanna Pressley
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Nanette Barragan
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Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
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Dina Titus

Dina Titus
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Mike Doyle
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Andy Levin
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Madeleine Dean
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Alan Lowenthal
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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib

Rashida Tlaib
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Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

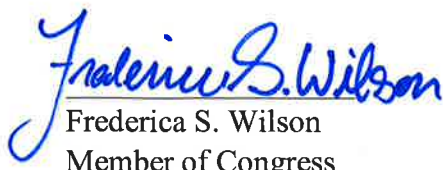
 

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



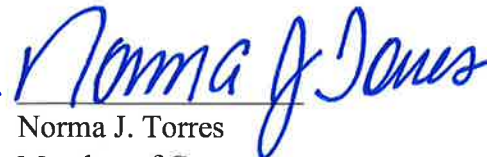
Ted Deutch
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Norma J. Torres
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Tony Cárdenas
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Donald Norcross
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Kathleen M. Rice
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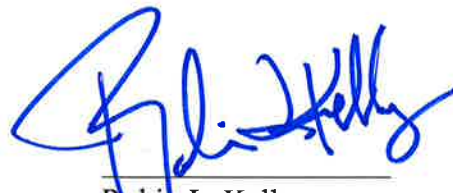
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Alcee L. Hastings
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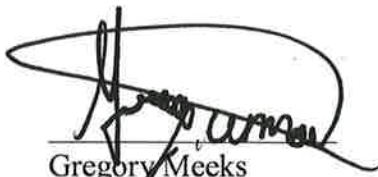
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Sharice L. Davids
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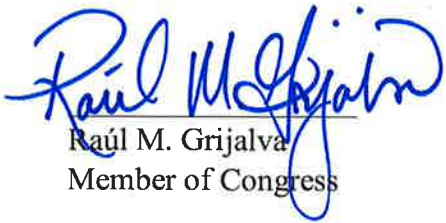
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Pramila Jayapal
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Donna Shalala
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Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



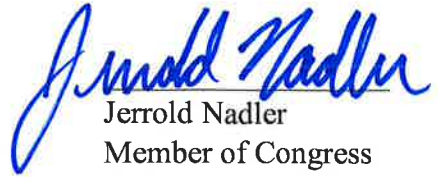
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



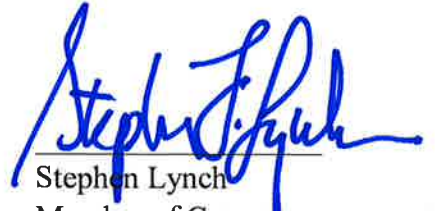
Jerrold Nadler
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Rick Larsen
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



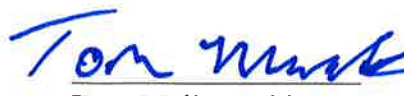
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
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Bradley S. Schneider
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Tom Malinowski
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



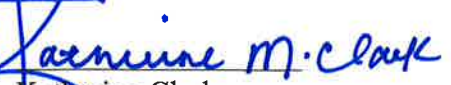
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



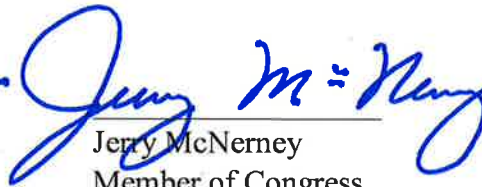
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress




TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Colin Allred
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress