March 28, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services
United States Senate

RE: FY 2024 Funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA)

Dear Chairpersons Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Capito:

The undersigned organizations of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities' (CCD) Social Security Task Force urge you to fund SSA's administrative budget to no less than the President's request of $15.5 billion for FY 2024. This increased funding is essential in order to assure that SSA has the resources it needs to improve service and address staffing levels that since FY 2010 have dropped by almost 16 percent while the number of beneficiaries has grown by 22 percent.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Social Security Task Force focuses on disability policy issues in the Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The SSI and Title II cash benefits, along with the related Medicaid and Medicare benefits, are the means of survival for millions of individuals with disabilities. They rely on SSA to promptly and fairly adjudicate their applications for disability benefits and to handle many other actions critical to their well-being.

While we welcome the additional $785 million in SSA funding that Congress provided in FY 2023, we note that this was barely sufficient to keep up with fixed-cost increases, staffing losses, and increased workloads. In FY 2024, absorbing the cost of employee pay raises, growing demand for service from the public, and increases in rent and postage in the face of rising inflation will continue to pose a challenge. In order to restore customer service, SSA must continue to replace and train the thousands of frontline staff who departed the agency during

the pandemic. Essential priorities include replacing its obsolete phone system and conducting long-overdue IT updates.

People with disabilities and older adults who rely on monthly checks deserve quality customer service, as do the millions of others who need some service from SSA. SSA does not have the resources to ensure the level of customer service that the public expects and deserves. We urge you to increase the overall FY 2024 allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee to a level that ensures robust and sustained investments. Congress needs to provide, at a minimum, the $15.5 billion requested by the President for SSA in FY 2024 in order to give SSA the tools it needs to strengthen services and reduce excessive delays faced every day by Americans who are trying to access the benefits they have earned.

Sincerely,

Justice in Aging
National Association of Disability Representatives
American Association on Health and Disability
The Lakeshore Foundation
Pandemic Patients
National PLAN Alliance (NPA)
American Academy of Pediatrics
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Disability Institute
Special Needs Alliance
The Arc of the United States
Epilepsy Foundation
Autistic People of Color Fund
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Caring Across Generations
Autism Speaks
United Spinal Association
Family Voices
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Cc: House and Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Members