

CLAY HIGGINS
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER, HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



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

February 11, 2025

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN, BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

Michelle King
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Acting Commissioner King,

The Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law (*PL 118-273*) on January 5, 2025, ending decades of unfair treatment of public servants and their loved ones across our nation. This long-awaited legislative fix produced a groundswell of bipartisan support in Congress and from nearly every major professional organization representing law enforcement, teachers, firefighters, and other public servants. While I appreciate the Social Security Administration's (SSA) considerable efforts to inform the public with updates, I am concerned with SSA's timeline for the full implementation of this important law.

According to your website, **"SSA expects that it could take more than one year to adjust benefits and pay all retroactive benefits."**¹ This is an unacceptable way to treat our elders. Those who have suffered under the failures of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) do not have the time to wait a year or more until they start seeing changes to their benefits. I understand the major task of implementing the Social Security Fairness Act—updating the benefits of over 3.2 million individuals will not be done overnight. However, the American people deserve excellent performance.

The Trump Administration has presented a robust capacity for accelerating government efficiency and identification of waste. In this spirit, I encourage SSA to reevaluate this timeline, considering the potential prioritization of resources and staff to expedite implementation. Further, I request a response detailing SSA's current implementation plan and how the current year-long timeline was reached.

The rapid implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act would be a life-changing event for those impacted by WEP/GPO. I urge you to do everything within your authority to achieve a swift implementation.

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>