

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to permanently appropriate funding for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to permanently appropriate funding for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Keep Billionaires Out of Social Security Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Exempting Social Security from the jurisdiction of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the application of certain executive orders.
- Sec. 3. Access by political appointees and special government employees.
- Sec. 4. Limitations on authority of Social Security Administration to except positions from competitive service and transfer positions.
- Sec. 5. Requiring that only deceased individuals be added to the Death Master File.
- Sec. 6. Closure of field and hearing offices and resident or rural contact stations.
- Sec. 7. Reestablishing the Offices of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity, Transformation, and Analytics, Review, and Oversight.
- Sec. 8. Funding for administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration.
- Sec. 9. Additional funding to improve Social Security customer experience.
- Sec. 10. Codification of former policy regarding recovery of Social Security overpayments.
- Sec. 11. State grants to protect the legal rights of SSI and SSDI applicants and beneficiaries.
- Sec. 12. Social Security assistance and representation grants.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM THE JURIS-**
 2 **DICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERN-**
 3 **MENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) AND THE APPLI-**
 4 **CATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the agencies, per-
 6 sonnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in
 7 subsection (b)—

8 (1) DOGE shall have no authority or jurisdic-
 9 tion; and

10 (2) the executive orders described in subsection
 11 (c) shall not apply.

12 (b) COVERED AGENCIES, PERSONNEL, SYSTEMS,
 13 AND BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS.—The agencies, per-
 14 sonnel, systems, and benefits and programs described in
 15 this subsection are the Social Security Administration, any
 16 officer or employee of the Social Security Administration,

1 the data, information technology, and operating systems
2 of the Social Security Administration, and any benefits or
3 program administered by the Social Security Administra-
4 tion, including the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and
5 Disability Insurance programs and associated benefits
6 under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401
7 et seq.).

8 (c) EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The executive orders de-
9 scribed in this subsection are—

10 (1) Executive Orders 14158, 14210, 14219,
11 and 14222 (90 Fed. Reg. 8441, 9669, 10583,
12 11095); and

13 (2) any other executive order relating to any
14 entity described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5).

15 (d) DOGE.—For purposes of this section, the term
16 “DOGE” means—

17 (1) the United States DOGE Service;

18 (2) the United States DOGE Service Tem-
19 porary Organization;

20 (3) any DOGE team (as defined in any of the
21 executive orders described in subsection (c)(1));

22 (4) any entity established in accordance with, or
23 to implement, any executive order described in sub-
24 section (c); and

1 (5) any successor entity to an entity described
2 in paragraphs (1) through (4).

3 **SEC. 3. ACCESS BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES AND SPECIAL**
4 **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1106 of the Social Secu-
6 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1306) is amended by adding after sub-
7 section (g) the following new subsections:

8 “(h) ACCESS BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES AND SPE-
9 CIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(A) PROHIBITION ON ACCESS TO BENE-
12 FICIARY DATA SYSTEMS.—Notwithstanding any
13 other subsection of this section, an individual
14 who is a political appointee (as that term is de-
15 fined in section 4(a) of the Edward ‘Ted’ Kauf-
16 man and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transi-
17 tions Improvements Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C.
18 3101 note)) or a special government employee
19 (as that term is defined in section 202(a) of
20 title 18, United States Code) may not access a
21 beneficiary data system.

22 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
23 shall not apply with respect to a political ap-
24 pointee or special government employee who has
25 been appointed to, or is employed in, a position

1 within the Social Security Administration with
2 responsibility to research, analyze, or improve
3 the delivery of benefits to program recipients.

4 “(2) BENEFICIARY DATA SYSTEM DEFINED.—

5 In this section, the term ‘beneficiary data system’
6 means a system that is maintained by the Social Se-
7 curity Administration for the purposes of admin-
8 istering this Act that—

9 “(A) issues or records social security ac-
10 count numbers;

11 “(B) is used to determine eligibility for
12 benefits under this Act;

13 “(C) to pay benefits under this Act; or

14 “(D) otherwise contains records of person-
15 ally identifiable information, personal health in-
16 formation, or federal tax information of individ-
17 uals receiving or applying for a benefit under
18 this Act.

19 “(i) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

21 “(A) DISCLOSURE OR ACCESS BY EM-
22 PLOYEE OF UNITED STATES.—If any officer or
23 employee of the United States negligently dis-
24 closes or accesses any information that pertains
25 to an individual in violation of any provision of

1 subsection (a) or (h), such individual may bring
2 a civil action for damages against the United
3 States in a district court of the United States.

4 “(B) DISCLOSURE OR ACCESS BY A PER-
5 SON WHO IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF UNITED
6 STATES.—If any person who is not an officer or
7 employee of the United States negligently dis-
8 closes or accesses any information that pertains
9 to an individual in violation of any provision of
10 subsection (a) or (h), such individual may bring
11 a civil action for damages against such person
12 in a district court of the United States.

13 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—No liability shall arise
14 under this section with respect to any disclosure or
15 access—

16 “(A) which results from a good faith, but
17 erroneous, interpretation of subsection (a) or
18 (h); or

19 “(B) which is requested by the individual.

20 “(3) DAMAGES.—In any action brought under
21 paragraph (1), upon a finding of liability on the part
22 of the defendant, the defendant shall be liable to the
23 plaintiff in an amount equal to the sum of—

24 “(A) the greater of—

1 “(i) \$5,000 for each act of unauthor-
2 ized access or disclosure with respect to
3 which such defendant is found liable; or

4 “(ii) the sum of—

5 “(I) the actual damages sus-
6 tained by the plaintiff as a result of
7 such unauthorized access or disclo-
8 sure, plus

9 “(II) in the case of a willful ac-
10 cess or disclosure or an access or dis-
11 closure which is the result of gross
12 negligence, punitive damages, plus

13 “(B) the costs of the action, plus

14 “(C) reasonable attorneys fees, except that
15 if the defendant is the United States, reason-
16 able attorneys fees may be awarded only if the
17 plaintiff is the prevailing party.

18 “(4) PERIOD FOR BRINGING ACTION.—Notwith-
19 standing any other provision of law, an action to en-
20 force any liability created under this section may be
21 brought, without regard to the amount in con-
22 troversy, at any time within 5 years after the date
23 of discovery by the plaintiff of the unauthorized dis-
24 closure or access.

1 “(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—It shall be unlawful for
2 any officer or employee of the United States to willfully
3 to disclose to any person any information that pertains
4 to an individual in violation of any provision of subsection
5 (a) or (h). Any violation of this subsection shall be a felony
6 punishable upon conviction by a fine in any amount not
7 exceeding \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5
8 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, and,
9 in addition to any other punishment, such officer or em-
10 ployee shall be dismissed from office or discharged from
11 employment upon conviction for such offense.

12 “(k) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—

13 “(1) INVESTIGATION.—The Inspector General
14 of the Social Security Administration shall inves-
15 tigate each disclosure in violation of subsection (a)
16 and each access of a beneficiary data system in vio-
17 lation of subsection (h).

18 “(2) TREATMENT OF DISCLOSURE OR AC-
19 CESS.—For the purposes of this subsection, the In-
20 spector General may, if the Inspector General deter-
21 mines appropriate, treat a series of violations of sub-
22 section (a) or (h) as a single violation.

23 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after
24 the Inspector General becomes aware of a violation
25 of subsection (a) or (h), the Inspector General shall

1 submit to Congress a report on such violation, which
2 shall include—

3 “(A) a detailed description of the violation;

4 “(B) a risk assessment of any threat to the
5 privacy of any individual whose information was
6 disclosed or accessed, national security, cyberse-
7 curity, or the integrity of the applicable bene-
8 ficiary data system as a result of the violation;
9 and

10 “(C) a detailed description of any stopped
11 payment during the unauthorized use or ac-
12 cess.”.

13 (b) PRIVACY REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding this
14 section and the amendments made by this section, part
15 401 of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in
16 effect on January 19, 2025, shall have the force and effect
17 of law.

18 (c) GAO STUDY AND INTERIM REPORTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
21 of the United States shall submit to the Committee
22 on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on
23 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a
24 report including the following information:

1 (A) The results of a study on the effects
2 of the changes made to section 1106 of the So-
3 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306) by this sec-
4 tion and any subsequently enacted law.

5 (B) Any civil actions brought under sub-
6 section (i) of section 1106 of such Act, as
7 added by subsection (a), including the results of
8 such civil action.

9 (C) A summary of any investigations con-
10 ducted under subsection (k) of section 1106 of
11 such Act, as added by subsection (a).

12 (D) Any convictions for a violation of sub-
13 section (a) or (h) of section 1106 of such Act
14 under subsection (j) of such Act, as added by
15 subsection (a).

16 (2) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 1
17 month after the date of enactment of this Act, and
18 monthly thereafter until such time as the report re-
19 quired under paragraph (1) is submitted, the Comp-
20 troller of the United States shall submit to the Com-
21 mittee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Finance of the
23 Senate an interim report on the information re-
24 quired under paragraph (1), including the status of

1 the study described in subparagraph (A) of such
2 paragraph.

3 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall apply to viola-
5 tions of section 1106 of the Social Security Act occurring
6 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY**
8 **ADMINISTRATION TO EXCEPT POSITIONS**
9 **FROM COMPETITIVE SERVICE AND TRANS-**
10 **FER POSITIONS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

12 (1) the term “Administration” means the Social
13 Security Administration;

14 (2) the term “Commissioner” means the Com-
15 missioner of Social Security;

16 (3) the term “competitive service” has the
17 meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5,
18 United States Code;

19 (4) the term “Director” means the Director of
20 the Office of Personnel Management; and

21 (5) the term “excepted service” has the mean-
22 ing given the term in section 2103 of title 5, United
23 States Code.

1 (b) LIMITATIONS.—A position in the competitive
2 service in the Administration may not be excepted from
3 the competitive service unless that position is placed—

4 (1) in any of schedules A through E, as de-
5 scribed in section 6.2 of title 5, Code of Federal
6 Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020;
7 and

8 (2) under the terms and conditions under part
9 6 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect
10 on September 30, 2020.

11 (c) TRANSFERS.—

12 (1) WITHIN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—A position in
13 the excepted service in the Administration may not
14 be transferred to any schedule other than a schedule
15 described in subsection (b)(1).

16 (2) OPM CONSENT REQUIRED.—The Commis-
17 sioner may not transfer any occupied position in the
18 Administration from the competitive service or the
19 excepted service into schedule C of subpart C of part
20 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
21 successor regulations, without the prior consent of
22 the Director.

23 (3) LIMIT DURING PRESIDENTIAL TERM.—Dur-
24 ing any 4-year presidential term, the Commissioner
25 may not transfer from a position in the competitive

1 service in the Administration to a position in the ex-
2 cepted service in the Administration the greater of
3 the following:

4 (A) A total number of employees that is
5 more than 1 percent of the total number of em-
6 ployees employed by the Administration, as of
7 the first day of that presidential term.

8 (B) 5 employees.

9 (4) EMPLOYEE CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
10 standing any other provision of this section—

11 (A) an employee who occupies a position in
12 the excepted service in the Administration may
13 not be transferred to an excepted service sched-
14 ule other than the schedule in which that posi-
15 tion is located without the prior written consent
16 of the employee; and

17 (B) an employee who occupies a position in
18 the competitive service in the Administration
19 may not be transferred to the excepted service
20 without the prior written consent of the em-
21 ployee.

22 (d) REPORT.—Not later than March 15 of each cal-
23 endar year, the Director shall submit to Congress a report
24 on the immediately preceding calendar year that lists—

1 (1) each position in the Administration that,
2 during the year covered by the report, was trans-
3 ferred from the competitive service to the excepted
4 service and a justification as to why each such posi-
5 tion was so transferred; and

6 (2) any violation of this section that occurred
7 during the year covered by the report.

8 (e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue reg-
10 ulations to implement this section.

11 **SEC. 5. REQUIRING THAT ONLY DECEASED INDIVIDUALS**
12 **BE ADDED TO THE DEATH MASTER FILE.**

13 Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14 405(r)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (7)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “and”;

20 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following new
23 subparagraph:

24 “(C) notify any agency that has a coopera-
25 tive arrangement with the Commissioner of So-

1 January 1, 2025, except in the case of a short-term
2 emergency or relocation;

3 “(C) maintain meaningful and efficient access
4 to live operator assistance; and

5 “(D) not later than 12 months after the date
6 of enactment of the Keep Billionaires Out of Social
7 Security Act, significantly improve telephone wait
8 times, callback times, and average service times for
9 beneficiaries and applicants, as compared to the av-
10 erage levels for such times during calendar year
11 2024.

12 “(2) The Commissioner may make recommendations
13 to Congress proposing field or hearing office location
14 changes, consolidations, or closures from time to time.

15 “(3) The Commissioner may—

16 “(A) establish new field or hearing offices in
17 addition to those that existed on January 1, 2025;
18 and

19 “(B) expand the level of services offered by a
20 field or hearing office beyond what such office of-
21 fered on January 1, 2025.

22 “(4) The Commissioner shall not limit public access
23 to any field or hearing office of the Administration, or the
24 staff of any such office, that existed on January 1, 2025.

1 “(5) The Commissioner shall not reduce the number
2 of employees of the Administration (as determined on an
3 annual basis) below the number of employees of the Ad-
4 ministration that were employed during calendar year
5 2024.

6 “(6) The Administration shall not be subject to any
7 hiring freeze, hiring prohibition, reduction in force order,
8 or similar policy, and, notwithstanding any such freeze,
9 prohibition, order, or policy, the Commissioner shall have
10 the authority to hire new employees if the Commissioner
11 deems it necessary to improve services provided by the Ad-
12 ministration to beneficiaries and applicants of the pro-
13 grams established under this Act.

14 “(7) The Commissioner shall establish an online op-
15 tion, in accessible formats, for beneficiaries and applicants
16 to apply, make benefit claims, and make changes to direct
17 deposit information.”.

18 (b) **RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.**—The amendment
19 made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on Jan-
20 uary 1, 2025, and any actions taken by the Commissioner
21 of Social Security or any other officer of the executive
22 branch that are inconsistent with such amendment shall
23 be reversed.

1 **SEC. 7. REESTABLISHING THE OFFICES OF CIVIL RIGHTS**
2 **AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, TRANS-**
3 **FORMATION, AND ANALYTICS, REVIEW, AND**
4 **OVERSIGHT.**

5 Section 702 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 902) is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 subsections:

8 “(f) CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Ad-
10 ministration an Office of Civil Rights and Equal Op-
11 portunity. The head of the Office of Civil Rights and
12 Equal Opportunity shall be the Deputy Commis-
13 sioner of Civil Rights, who shall—

14 “(A) be appointed by the Commissioner;

15 “(B) as of the date on which the appoint-
16 ment described in subparagraph (A) is made, be
17 serving as a career appointee (as defined in sec-
18 tion 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code) in
19 the Social Security Administration; and

20 “(C) exercise such duties as are appro-
21 priate for the Office of Civil Rights and Equal
22 Opportunity of the Administration and in ac-
23 cordance with Federal civil rights laws.

24 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Civil
25 Rights and Equal Opportunity shall be responsible
26 for the management of the Administration’s pro-

1 grams of civil rights and equal opportunity, includ-
2 ing the development of the Administration’s civil
3 rights and equal opportunity policies, regulations,
4 procedures, and enforcement of the Americans with
5 Disabilities Act of 1990 and sections 501, 504, and
6 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 pertaining to
7 the development of affirmative action employment
8 and equal opportunity programs to cultivate a di-
9 verse and inclusive environment, which shall in-
10 clude—

11 “(A) planning, implementing, and directing
12 programs designed to ensure equal opportunity
13 in employment for all employees regardless of
14 race, color, national origin, religion, age, dis-
15 ability, genetic information, or sex;

16 “(B) processing, adjudicating, and resolv-
17 ing complaints of discrimination in compliance
18 with all applicable laws, regulations, and other
19 guidance issued by the Equal Employment Op-
20 portunity Commission;

21 “(C) directing and managing the Adminis-
22 tration’s reasonable accommodation program
23 for employees with disabilities; and

24 “(D) developing and maintaining all nec-
25 essary information systems to manage the Ad-

1 ministration’s equal opportunity programs, de-
2 velop reliable statistical data analyses, and
3 track workloads.

4 “(g) TRANSFORMATION.—There shall be in the Ad-
5 ministration an Office of Transformation. The head of the
6 Office of Transformation shall be the Deputy Commis-
7 sioner of Transformation, who shall—

8 “(1) be appointed by the Commissioner;

9 “(2) as of the date on which the appointment
10 described in paragraph (1) is made, be serving as a
11 career appointee (as defined in section 3132(a) of
12 title 5, United States Code) in the Social Security
13 Administration; and

14 “(3) exercise such duties as are appropriate for
15 the Office of Transformation of the Administration,
16 which shall include strategic guidance and oversight
17 of the Administration’s initiatives, addressing poli-
18 cies, business processes, and systems, including cus-
19 tomer service-related systems and projects and re-
20 solving delays and ensure successful implementation
21 of such systems and projects.

22 “(h) ANALYTICS, REVIEW, AND OVERSIGHT.—There
23 shall be in the Administration an Office of Analytics, Re-
24 view, and Oversight. The head of the Office of Analytics,

1 Review, and Oversight shall be the Deputy Commissioner
2 of Analytics, Review, and Oversight, who shall—

3 “(1) be appointed by the Commissioner;

4 “(2) as of the date on which the appointment
5 described in paragraph (1) is made, be serving as a
6 career appointee (as defined in section 3132(a) of
7 title 5, United States Code) in the Social Security
8 Administration;

9 “(3) exercise such duties as are appropriate for
10 the Office of Analytics, Review, and Oversight of the
11 Administration which shall include reviewing pro-
12 gram quality and effectiveness, making recommenda-
13 tions for program improvement, and coordinating
14 the detection and prevention of fraud.”.

15 **SEC. 8. FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE**
16 **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(g)(1)(A) of the Social
18 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

19 (1) in the third sentence of the matter following
20 clause (ii), by striking “the costs of the part of the
21 administration of this title, title VIII, title XVI, and
22 title XVIII for which the Commissioner of Social Se-
23 curity is responsible,”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following: “For
25 each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2026,

1 there is hereby appropriated to pay the costs of the
2 part of the administration of this title, title VIII,
3 and title XVI for which the Commissioner of Social
4 Security is responsible an amount equal to 1.2 per-
5 cent of the sum of the amount of benefit payments
6 required to be made under this title for the fiscal
7 year involved and the amount of benefit payments
8 expected to be paid under titles VIII and XVI for
9 the fiscal year involved, as estimated by the Com-
10 missioner of Social Security. For purposes of the
11 preceding sentence, (I) the portion of the amount to
12 be appropriated for a fiscal year that is attributable
13 to benefit payments required to be made under this
14 title shall be appropriated from the Federal Old-Age
15 and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Fed-
16 eral Disability Insurance Trust Fund, in such pro-
17 portion as the Commissioner of Social Security shall
18 determine, and (II) the portion of the amount to be
19 appropriated for a fiscal year that is attributable to
20 benefit payments expected to be made under titles
21 VIII and XVI shall be appropriated from the general
22 fund of the Treasury. For each fiscal year beginning
23 with fiscal year 2026, there is hereby appropriated
24 from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund
25 and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance

1 Trust Fund, in such proportion as the Commissioner
2 of Social Security shall determine, such sums as are
3 necessary to pay the costs of the part of the admin-
4 istration of title XVIII for which the Commissioner
5 is responsible.”.

6 (b) REMOVING THE LIMITATION ON THE ADMINIS-
7 TRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINIS-
8 TRATION FROM DISCRETIONARY BUDGET CAPS, THE
9 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION, THE 302(a) AL-
10 LOCATIONS AND THE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS.—

11 (1) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
12 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND MEDICARE
13 FROM ALL BUDGETS.—Section 13301(a) of the
14 Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632
15 note) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(a) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF
17 SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND MEDICARE FROM ALL
18 BUDGETS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
20 provision of law, the receipts and disbursements de-
21 scribed in paragraph (2) shall not be counted as new
22 budget authority, outlays, receipts, or deficit or sur-
23 plus for purposes of—

1 “(A) the budget of the United States Gov-
2 ernment as submitted by the President under
3 section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

4 “(B) a concurrent resolution on the budg-
5 et;

6 “(C) the Balanced Budget and Emergency
7 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et
8 seq.); or

9 “(D) the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of
10 2010 (2 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

11 “(2) RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS COV-
12 ERED.—The receipts and disbursements described in
13 this paragraph are—

14 “(A) the receipts and disbursements of the
15 Federal Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund and
16 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund,
17 including the costs of the part of the adminis-
18 tration of title II of the Social Security Act for
19 which the Commissioner of Social Security is
20 responsible; and

21 “(B) the receipts and disbursements from
22 the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund,
23 the Federal Supplementary Insurance Trust
24 Fund, and amounts appropriated for the Sup-
25 plemental Security Income program for the

1 costs of the part of the administration of titles
2 XVI and XVIII of the Social Security Act for
3 which the Commissioner of Social Security is
4 responsible.”.

5 (2) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
6 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND MEDICARE
7 FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLU-
8 TION.—Section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget
9 Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by strik-
10 ing the matter following paragraph (7) and inserting
11 the following:

12 “The concurrent resolution shall not include in the surplus
13 or deficit totals required by this subsection or in any other
14 surplus or deficit totals required by this title the outlays
15 and revenue totals of the program under title II of the
16 Social Security Act, or the related provisions of the Inter-
17 nal Revenue Code of 1986, including the costs of the part
18 of the administration of such title II for which the Com-
19 missioner of Social Security is responsible or the costs of
20 the part of the administration of titles XVI and XVIII
21 of the Social Security Act for which the Commissioner of
22 Social Security is responsible.”.

23 (3) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
24 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND MEDICARE
25 FROM CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 302(a) ALLOCA-

1 TIONS.—Section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional
2 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)) is amend-
3 ed by adding at the end the following: “The alloca-
4 tion under this paragraph shall not include the out-
5 lays of the program under title II of the Social Secu-
6 rity Act, including the costs of the part of the ad-
7 ministration of such title for which the Commis-
8 sioner of Social Security is responsible, or the out-
9 lays for the costs of the part of the administration
10 of titles XVI and XVIII of the Social Security Act
11 for which the Commissioner of Social Security is re-
12 sponsible.”.

13 (4) EXCLUSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
14 COSTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND MEDICARE
15 FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 302(b)
16 SUBALLOCATIONS.—Section 302(b) of the Congres-
17 sional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(b)) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following: “The
19 suballocation under this subsection shall not include
20 the outlays of the program under title II of the So-
21 cial Security Act, including the costs of the part of
22 the administration of such title for which the Com-
23 missioner of Social Security is responsible, or the
24 outlays for the costs of the part of the administra-
25 tion of titles XVI and XVIII of the Social Security

1 Act for which the Commissioner of Social Security
2 is responsible.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

5 **SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SECU-**
6 **RITY CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated to the
8 Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this sec-
9 tion as the “Commissioner”) for the period of fiscal year
10 2026 through fiscal year 2035, out of any money in the
11 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$2,000,000,000, to
12 remain available until expended, to be used by the Com-
13 missioner for the following purposes:

14 (1) To conduct efforts to increase awareness of
15 eligibility for supplemental security income benefits
16 among families with children who may be eligible for
17 such benefits, with such efforts to be conducted
18 throughout the United States to ensure families of
19 children with disabilities have awareness of the pro-
20 gram, its eligibility standards, and how to apply.

21 (2) To reduce the initial disability insurance
22 benefit claims backlog and other disability insurance
23 benefit workloads, as well as backlogs and workloads
24 relating to claims for benefits under title II or XVI
25 of the Social Security Act which involve a disability

1 determination (including appeals), including by di-
2 recting resources and workload assistance to areas
3 with the greatest need.

4 (3) Maintaining, expanding, modernizing, or en-
5 hancing the information technology capabilities and
6 infrastructure of the Social Security Administration,
7 while ensuring that delivery of benefits continues un-
8 interrupted.

9 (4) Increasing the menu of services that can be
10 performed online, including an application for bene-
11 fits under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

12 (b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
14 thereafter, the Commissioner shall submit to Congress a
15 report on the actions being undertaken by the Social Secu-
16 rity Administration to address the issues described in
17 paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 10. CODIFICATION OF FORMER POLICY REGARDING**
19 **RECOVERY OF SOCIAL SECURITY OVERPAY-**
20 **MENTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1)(A) of the Social
22 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “With respect to payment” and
24 inserting “(i) Subject to clause (ii), with respect to
25 payment”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new
2 clause:

3 “(ii)(I) With respect to adjustment or re-
4 covery on account of an overpayment pursuant
5 to clause (i), the Commissioner of Social Secu-
6 rity shall not decrease the amount of any
7 monthly benefit payable to such person under
8 this title by an amount that exceeds 10 percent
9 of such monthly benefit or, if less, \$10.

10 “(II) The limitation in subclause (I) shall
11 not apply in the case of a person who—

12 “(aa) received payment of more than
13 the correct amount as a result of fraud or
14 similar fault (as defined in section
15 205(u)(2)), or

16 “(bb) elects to waive such limitation
17 and requests that the Commissioner of So-
18 cial Security impose a greater decrease in
19 the amount of monthly benefits payable to
20 such person under this title than the
21 amount otherwise determined under such
22 subclause.”.

23 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
24 this section shall apply with respect to overpayment deter-
25 minations made on or after March 25, 2024, and to any

1 other overpaid amounts that have not been recovered as
2 of such date.

3 **SEC. 11. STATE GRANTS TO PROTECT THE LEGAL RIGHTS**
4 **OF SSI AND SSDI APPLICANTS AND BENE-**
5 **FICIARIES.**

6 Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301
7 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1150C the
8 following new section:

9 **“SEC. 1150D. STATE GRANTS TO PROTECT THE LEGAL**
10 **RIGHTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY AND**
11 **DISABILITY INSURANCE APPLICANTS AND**
12 **BENEFICIARIES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may make
14 payments in each State to the protection and advocacy
15 system established pursuant to part C of title I of the De-
16 velopmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
17 for the purpose of protecting the legal rights of bene-
18 ficiaries with a disability.

19 “(b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided to
20 beneficiaries with a disability pursuant to a payment made
21 under this section may include—

22 “(1) information and advice about accessing
23 and applying for benefits under title II or title XVI
24 on the basis of a disability and appealing eligibility
25 decisions with respect to such benefits;

1 “(2) advocacy and other services that a bene-
2 ficiary with a disability may need related to such
3 benefits; and

4 “(3) services described in section 1150(b).

5 “(c) APPLICATION.—In order to receive payments
6 under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall
7 submit an application to the Commissioner, at such time,
8 in such form and manner, and accompanied by such infor-
9 mation and assurances as the Commissioner may require.

10 “(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the amount ap-
12 propriated for a fiscal year for making payments
13 under this section, a protection and advocacy system
14 shall not be paid an amount that is less than—

15 “(A) in the case of a protection and advo-
16 cacy system located in one of the 50 States, the
17 District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, \$200,000;
18 and

19 “(B) in the case of a protection and advo-
20 cacy system located in Guam, American Samoa,
21 the United States Virgin Islands, or the Com-
22 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
23 \$100,000.

24 “(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal
25 year in which the total amount appropriated to carry

1 out this section exceeds the total amount appro-
2 priated to carry out this section in the preceding fis-
3 cal year, the Commissioner shall increase each min-
4 imum payment under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
5 paragraph (1) by a percentage equal to the percent-
6 age increase in the total amount so appropriated to
7 carry out this section.

8 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each protection and advo-
9 cacy system that receives a payment under this section
10 shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner on the
11 services provided to individuals by the system.

12 “(f) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
14 under this section shall be made from amounts made
15 available for the administration of title II and
16 amounts made available for the administration of
17 title XVI, and shall be allocated among those
18 amounts as appropriate.

19 “(2) CARRYOVER.—Any amounts allotted for
20 payment to a protection and advocacy system under
21 this section for a fiscal year shall remain available
22 for payment to or on behalf of the protection and
23 advocacy system until the end of the succeeding fis-
24 cal year.

25 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) BENEFICIARY WITH A DISABILITY.—The
2 term ‘beneficiary with a disability’ means an indi-
3 vidual who—

4 “(A) is a title II disability beneficiary or a
5 title XVI disability beneficiary (as such terms
6 are defined under section 1148(k));

7 “(B) is an applicant or prospective appli-
8 cant for benefits under title II or title XVI on
9 the basis that such individual has a disability;

10 “(C) is requesting a hearing under section
11 221(d) or for an administrative review prior to
12 such hearing; or

13 “(D) is filing a request for reinstatement
14 of entitled under section 223(i)(1)(A).

15 “(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commis-
16 sioner’ means the Commissioner of Social Security.

17 “(3) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM.—
18 The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a
19 protection and advocacy system established pursuant
20 to part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities
21 Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

22 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

1 **SEC. 12. SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTA-**
2 **TION GRANTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year during the
4 5-year period beginning with fiscal year 2026, the Com-
5 missioner shall award not less than 10 grants under this
6 section to community-based organizations for the purpose
7 of assisting individuals with disabilities—

8 (1) during the process of applying for benefits
9 under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act (42
10 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) on the basis of a
11 disability;

12 (2) any appeals processes before the Commis-
13 sioner, an administrative judge of the Social Secu-
14 rity Administration, or a State Disability Determina-
15 tion Services office; and

16 (3) in accessing such benefits.

17 (b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) DURATION AND AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A
19 grant awarded to a community-based organization
20 under this section—

21 (A) shall be for an amount that is not less
22 than \$500,000; and

23 (B) shall be for a period of 5 years.

24 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds shall only be
25 used for a purpose described in subsection (a).

26 (c) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
2 this section, a community-based organization shall
3 submit an application to the Commissioner, at such
4 time and in such form and manner and accompanied
5 by such information and assurances as the Commis-
6 sioner may require.

7 (2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application
8 for a grant under this section shall include the fol-
9 lowing information:

10 (A) The region to be served by the appli-
11 cant.

12 (B) A description of the needs of bene-
13 ficiaries with a disability in such region.

14 (C) A description of services to be provided
15 under such grant.

16 (D) The personnel that would provide such
17 services.

18 (E) The applicant's plan for disseminating
19 awareness of the services provided under the
20 grant to beneficiaries with a disability in the re-
21 gion.

22 (3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—An
23 application for a grant under this section shall in-
24 clude a memorandum of understanding among any

1 collaborating entities as to roles and allocation of
2 grant funds for each collaborating agency.

3 (4) ASSURANCE OF AVAILABILITY.—An applica-
4 tion for a grant under this section shall include a
5 commitment by the applicant that all services pro-
6 vided under the grant, including information about
7 such services, shall be accessible to beneficiaries with
8 a disability.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

10 (1) BENEFICIARY WITH A DISABILITY.—The
11 term “beneficiary with a disability” has the meaning
12 given such term in section 1150D of the Social Se-
13 curity Act (as added by section 14).

14 (2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
15 sioner” means the Commissioner of Social Security.

16 (3) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
17 term “community-based organization” means a non-
18 profit agency or collaboration of non-profit agencies
19 that—

20 (A) serves a region of one or more States;

21 (B) includes—

22 (i) a legal team of lawyers licensed to
23 practice in the State or States served by
24 the organization;

1 (ii) experts in disability benefits pro-
2 vided under title II and XVI of the Social
3 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381
4 et seq.), including application, and appeals
5 procedures under such titles; and

6 (iii) individuals currently receiving
7 benefits on the basis of a disability under
8 such a title, or who were beneficiaries
9 under such a title on the basis of a dis-
10 ability within the past 5 years; and

11 (C) is overseen by a board or advisory
12 group composed of at least $\frac{1}{3}$ members who are
13 current or former beneficiaries on the basis of
14 a disability under title II or XVI of the Social
15 Security Act.

16 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the 50
17 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
18 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the
19 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

20 (e) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the
21 Commissioner, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,
22 \$15,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section.

23 (f) REPORTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each community-based or-
2 ganization that receives a grant under this sections
3 shall provide the Commissioner with—

4 (A) for each year of the grant period, an
5 annual report on the services provided; and

6 (B) at the conclusion of the grant period,
7 a final report of activities provided under the
8 grant.

9 (2) EVALUATION GRANT.—From the adminis-
10 trative funds of title II and title XVI, there shall be
11 awarded an evaluation grant to an independent enti-
12 ty to evaluate the impact of the grants under this
13 section. The amount to be awarded to the evaluation
14 entity shall be at least \$500,000 for each of the 5
15 years of the grant period and at least \$500,000 for
16 the 2 years following the grant period.