

Repairing Social Security After Trump and DOGE Act **Congresswoman Norma Torres (CA-35)**

Less than one year into his second term, President Trump and his Administration have done lasting damage to Social Security. Elon Musk and DOGE sent the agency into chaos. Trump has fired 7,000 public servants in the largest staff cut in the Social Security Administration's (SSA) history. His Administration has proposed closing field offices, requiring in-person visits, and reducing phone services. These proposals were withdrawn, for now, only after public outrage and huge disruptions. This chaos continued during the Republican shutdown as certain Social Security services, like replacing Medicare cards, processing overpayments, and fixing earnings records were paused.

The cuts and chaos have resulted in too few staff to help applicants and beneficiaries, as well as administer Social Security programs. This has also meant long wait times on the phone, website crashes, and chaotic changes that make it harder for older Americans and those with disabilities to apply for or receive Social Security. And we are still less than a year into this Administration.

The *Repairing Social Security After Trump and DOGE Act* would allow those who were unable to apply for benefits due to an undue hardship caused by the Trump Administration to be made whole by granting them access to missed benefits.

This Legislation is Supported by: Social Security Works (SSW), National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare (NCPSSM), and Justice In Aging.

Bill Summary:

- After the end of Trump's second term (January 20, 2029) the future Commissioner shall work to:
 - Identify those who were unable to apply due to a Trump-caused undue hardship; and
 - Provide a way for individuals to notify SSA that they failed to apply due to a Trump-caused undue hardship.
- Examples of undue hardship caused by the Trump Administration include, but not limited to:
 - Inability to schedule appointments, meet staff in person at offices, or get help on the phone due to firings of SSA staff or operational changes.
 - Confusing, conflicting, or mis- information provided by the Trump Administration
 - Being falsely declared dead and technical issues, such as website outages.
 - Changes that make it difficult for those without access to transportation or the internet.
- For individuals who faced undue hardship in applying for SSA benefits due to the Trump Administration's actions, their application shall be treated as if it occurred on the later of:
 - The date on which they suffered the undue hardship, or
 - When they met all requirements to be entitled to benefits (other than having applied).
- Waives the 5-month disability insurance waiting period for affected individuals and ensures they are not penalized for receiving benefits by other programs (like SNAP or Medicaid).
- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) shall investigate and detail the Trump Administration's actions and provide recommendations on how to fix what they have broken.