May 24, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As chairs of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the House Democratic Task Force on Aging and Families, we know how important H.R.5723 - the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust – is to all Americans but particularly seniors and people of color. Consequently, we urge you to bring this bill to the House floor for a vote this Congress.

Our late, beloved colleague John Lewis proclaimed that Social Security was the next civil rights issue. We could not agree more. Five million of our fellow citizens, disproportionately people of color, live in poverty, despite FDR’s signature Social Security. For this reason, people of color are more likely to rely on Social Security to provide necessary income.

Importantly, H.R. 5723 not only expands benefits both across-the-board and in targeted ways, it cuts Social Security’s projected shortfall by more than half. It is wise policy and winning politics. We must act.

President Biden has called Social Security a “sacred trust” – a promise made by the federal government to its people. It is Congress’ responsibility to ensure that Social Security’s benefits are protected and improved. It’s time we deliver.

The modest benefits Social Security currently provides are a lifeline for many of our constituents. Whether they be retired seniors, disabled veterans, or children who’ve lost a parent – millions rely on Social Security. Expanding and strengthening this vital institution, as H.R. 5723 does, will demonstrably improve their lives and our nation’s economy.

Social Security is the #1 permanent anti-poverty program for the elderly and for children. Yet we know from our witness testimony and town halls that parents and grandparents often must choose between putting food on the table for their children or keeping a roof over their heads. They need their benefits improved now!
For all these reasons, we urge you to move H.R. 5723, _Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust_, to a vote in the House as soon as possible. As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views and our responsiveness.

Sincerely,

Joyce Beatty  
Chair  
Congressional Black Caucus

Raul Ruiz  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Judy Chu  
Chair  
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Jan Schakowsky  
Co-Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

Doris Matsui  
Co-Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

Conor Lamb  
Co-Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

Debbie Dingell  
Vice Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

Ayanna Pressley  
Vice Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

Ted Deutch  
Vice Chair  
Task Force on Aging and Families

CC: Chairman Neal