

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

December 18, 2018

Dear Representative Larson,

Justice in Aging is pleased to endorse the Social Security 2100 Act. Justice in Aging is an advocacy organization with the mission of improving the lives of low-income older adults. We use the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security and the courts for older adults with limited resources. This bill would boost the economic security of millions of older adults while also strengthening the Social Security trust fund.

The bill would provide an increase for all Social Security beneficiaries and protect long-time low-wage workers by setting the special minimum benefit at 25% above the poverty level, indexing it to wages in the future. The bill also uses a better measure of inflation—the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E)—to determine regular cost of living adjustments. These provisions are incredibly important to those who depend on Social Security for most, if not all, of their income as they age. The bill also holds harmless those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, or CHIP benefits so that these benefit increases do not cause them to lose access to other important assistance.

Finally, the bill combines, and extends the solvency of, the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) trust funds for the rest of the century. This is achieved partly by extending the payroll tax to high income earners, who currently do not pay any Social Security taxes on income over the current wage cap (\$132,900 in 2019).

The improvements to the Social Security program and the protections offered to low-income workers through the Social Security 2100 Act are crucial reforms that must take place soon. Justice in Aging supports this bill, and is happy to endorse it in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director

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