



Katie Smith Sloan, Chair

October 14, 2021

The Honorable John Larson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Larson,

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 69 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population. Over the years we have worked tirelessly to protect and expand Social Security because it provides the foundation for income security of the people of this country. LCAO is writing to commend you for your work in support of America's seniors and to endorse your bill, *Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust*. This legislation would improve Social Security benefits and extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds while not increasing taxes for those earning under \$400,000.

Social Security is our nation's most important social insurance program, helping keep millions of Americans out of poverty in retirement and providing critical support for disabled workers and their families and for the spouses and children of deceased workers. Surveys have consistently shown that Social Security is extremely popular with the American people across the political spectrum.

Unfortunately, the Social Security program has not been updated in nearly 40 years. As a result, benefits have eroded, leaving millions of seniors unable to make ends meet even though they worked their whole lives and paid into Social Security. It is well past time to strengthen Social Security and enhance its critical benefits, both goals achieved by your legislation.

LCAO has long supported many of the improvements included in the *Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act*, especially those of particular importance to women and people of color who are most likely to rely on Social Security. These include an across the board benefit increase for all Social Security beneficiaries; improving the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) so it better reflects the inflation actually experienced by seniors; ensuring no one retires into poverty after a lifetime of work by improving benefits for long-serving, low-wage workers; improving benefits for widows and widowers from two-income households and increasing benefits for the oldest old, those who have been receiving benefits for 20 years or more.

Your legislation also would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that unfairly penalize many federal, state and local government civil servants, especially surviving spouses; provide caregiver credits to ensure that workers are not penalized in retirement for taking time out of the workforce to care for children or elderly family members; and restore student benefits up to age 22 for dependent children of disabled, deceased, or retired workers.

Finally, your legislation also extends the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds, averting an estimated twenty percent cut in benefits by 2034, according to the Social Security Actuary.

We appreciate all the work you have done on behalf of America's seniors and the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations strongly add our endorsement to the *Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smith Sloan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Katie" and "Sloan" being more distinct and "Smith" being a bit more stylized.

Katie Smith Sloan, Chair