

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 12, 2021

Dr. Kilolo Kijakazi
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore MD, 21207

Everett Kelley
President
American Federation of Government Employees
80 F Street NW
Washington DC, 20001

Dear Dr. Kijakazi and Mr. Kelley,

We write to urge you to work together to develop a plan to reopen the more than 1,500 Social Security field offices that are currently closed to the public. Numerous constituents across our districts have reached out to us to express their frustrations with access to Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices. Many of our constituents from vulnerable populations who lack access to reliable internet, or do not have a reliable phone number or mailing address, are struggling to access Social Security services. In order to provide the services the American people are entitled to, it is imperative that these field offices reopen.

We are also concerned the continued closure of SSA's field offices will result in further delays in processing critical benefits and other services, on top of the already existing benefits backlog. A recent report from the SSA's Office of the Inspector General found that SSA is facing a backlog of unprocessed mail, including benefit applications and requests for Social Security cards. As you are aware, delays in these areas can cause significant hardship for beneficiaries.

The health and safety of federal employees should be a priority in any reopening plan. With the availability of three safe and highly effective vaccines however, it is clear that field offices can be reopened safely. Numerous public and private entities throughout the country have resumed normal operations. It is time the Social Security Administration reopen as well.

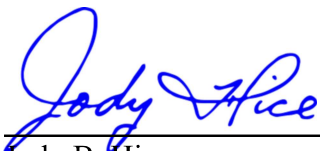
Sincerely,



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



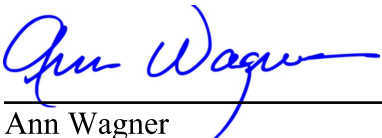
Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



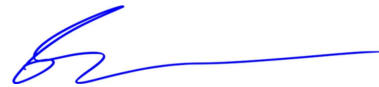
Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



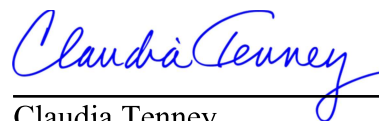
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



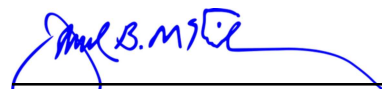
Ted Budd
Member of Congress



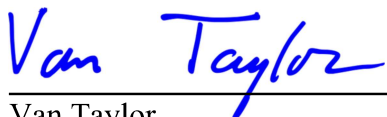
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



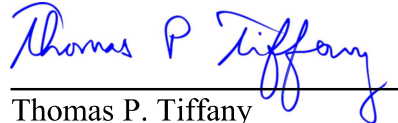
Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



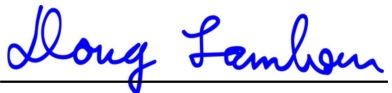
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
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Thomas P. Tiffany
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Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, MD
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



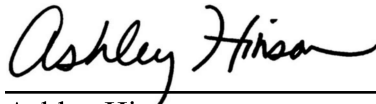
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



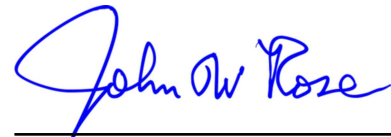
Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
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David G. Valadao
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David Schweikert
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Lance Gooden
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Elise M. Stefanik
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Mary E. Miller
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Cliff Bentz
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Yvette Herrell
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Dan Newhouse
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Madison Cawthorn
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Burgess Owens
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Sam Graves
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