



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your February 5, 2025 letter regarding our plans for implementing the *Social Security Fairness Act of 2023* (SSFA). The SSFA increases monthly benefits for millions of people who have been affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. I appreciate the importance of this legislation to you and your constituents, and I am committed to implementing it as efficiently and transparently as possible.

Last month, I announced an aggressive schedule to expedite our implementation of the SSFA using automation. The schedule supports President Trump's priority to implement the SSFA as quickly as possible. As a result, the agency's original estimate of taking a year or more to make payments now will apply to only complex cases that cannot be processed by automation.


We have already begun issuing one-time retroactive payments to affected beneficiaries, most of whom will receive their payment by the end of this month. Through March 4, 2025, about 1.1 million people received more than \$7.5 billion in retroactive payments. The average retroactive payment so far is \$6,710. Adjustments to monthly benefits will first be reflected in payments received in April.

We will mail an explanatory notice to everyone who receives a retroactive payment or benefit adjustment. Notices may lag payments by two to three weeks due to how quickly we are making the payments. We urge beneficiaries to wait until April to inquire about cases.

I appreciate your interest in, and your support of, our implementation efforts, and we will be glad to provide you with regular updates on our progress. Dustin Brown, our Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner for the Office of External Affairs/Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, will contact your staff to coordinate these updates. We also encourage your staff to visit and subscribe to our [SSFA webpage](#) to stay abreast of our progress.

I am sending a similar response to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leland Dudek".

Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner