

FEDERAL WORKERS ALLIANCE

COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING OVER 550,000 FEDERAL AND POSTAL WORKERS

August 25, 2023

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned, write as members of the Federal Workers Alliance (FWA), a coalition of more than 35 national labor unions that collectively represent more than 550,000 federal workers across the country, to encourage you to support the speedy confirmation of Governor Martin O'Malley to lead the Social Security Administration (SSA). This important agency, which has operated without a confirmed head for eight of the last ten years, needs the Senate to act promptly to confirm Gov. O'Malley as its Commissioner.

Our members are among the 66 million Americans who depend on the effective functioning of the Social Security Administration (SSA) for crucial, life-sustaining benefits, and our coalition includes unions representing some of the 60,000 federal employees who are committed to SSA's mission and serving the seniors, disabled workers, and surviving family who count on these benefits.

In addition to the lack of a confirmed leader, both SSA's workers and recipients have faced myriad challenges due to the global pandemic. Throughout this trying time, SSA employees and their unions enabled the agency to continue processing benefits in a timely fashion, often through personal sacrifice and at personal risk.

In Gov. O'Malley, President Biden has nominated someone who recognizes that effective delivery of governmental services and respect for civil servants go hand-in-hand. As Mayor of Baltimore and Governor of Maryland, O'Malley demonstrated that putting this principle into practice would benefit both the workers and the residents he represented. Crucially, O'Malley ensured that affected workers and their representatives had a seat at the table when discussing modernizing processes or achieving efficiencies within city and state agencies.

In addition to ensuring them a seat at the table, Gov. O'Malley used his office to advocate for workers' basic rights. During his time in Annapolis, the number of Marylanders who had the right to bargain collectively expanded more than under the tenure of any other modern governor. He also enacted a historic increase in the state's minimum wage, and he successfully supported the 2012 marriage equality referendum, protecting LGBTQ+ Marylanders from a particularly insidious form of employer discrimination.

Americans who rely on Social Security benefits, along with those workers in your state who proudly process those benefits and work to support the agency, need the Senate to act quickly to confirm Gov. Martin O'Malley as its next Commissioner. We are sure that you and your staff hear every day from your constituents about the issues at SSA that arise from the agency operating for the better part of a decade under leadership that has neither the ability to address the agency's immediate needs nor the authority to implement long-term reforms.

We believe the time for action is now, and Martin O'Malley is the leader for this moment. We urge you to actively support the swift confirmation of Gov. O'Malley as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

We thank you, in advance, for your attention to this very urgent matter.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Federal Workers Alliance Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Steve Lenkart, slenkart@nffe.org, and Faraz Khan, fkhan@ifpte.org.

Sincerely,

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Plate Printers, Die Stampers, Plate Makers & Engravers of North America (IPPDSPEM&E of N.A.)
Federal Education Association (FEA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
Printing Packaging & Production Workers Union (PPPWU)
United Power Trades Organization (UPTO)