

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

The reports from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, Federal Disability Insurance, Federal Hospital Insurance, and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds were due on April 1 as required by 42 U.S.C. Sec. 401 and 1395t. These reports are already a month overdue. Please provide in writing when they can be expected and why the statutory deadline was not met.

The Trustees Reports are essential to the oversight of these important programs relied on by millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities. As Managing Trustee of the Trust Funds, you are ultimately responsible for meeting the deadlines required by law. The American people rightfully expect the timely release of these reports.

We look forward to receiving your response. Please contact Amy Shuart, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Social Security, at (202) 225-9263 or Emily Murry, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health, at (202) 225-3943, if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,



Sam Johnson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Social Security



Pat Tiberi
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

To date, we have not received your response to our May 3, 2016, letter asking for an update on the reports from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, Federal Disability Insurance, Federal Hospital Insurance, and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds which were due on April 1, as required by 42 U.S.C. Sec. 401 and 1395t. We remain deeply disappointed by this Administration's continued and blatant disregard for current law.

Congress does not establish statutory deadlines lightly and intended that these reports would provide consistent, annual updates on the programs' statuses. Throughout this Administration the Trustees Reports have never been submitted on time and have ranged from 41 days late in 2009 to 118 days late in 2014. Missing a statutory deadline without explanation is simply unacceptable. There is no reason why the committees of jurisdiction are not notified when the Administration chooses to miss the statutory deadline.

Congress and the American people rightfully expect the timely release of these reports. We expect to receive a response to our May 3, 2016, letter no later than Friday, June 10, 2016. Please contact Amy Shuart, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Social Security, at (202) 225-9263 or Emily Murry, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health, at (202) 225-3943, if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,



Sam Johnson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Social Security



Pat Tiberi
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

June 10, 2016

The Honorable Sam Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your recent letters regarding the annual reports from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, Federal Hospital Insurance, and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds (the 2016 Trustees Reports). As you know, these Reports provide policy makers with an independent, data-driven look at the financial position of the Trust Funds and issues that policy makers should consider addressing in the coming years. The Administration strongly believes these critical programs should remain available to assist future generations. For that reason, the Administration has worked with Congress to make concrete progress to extend the life of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, including the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act, but more needs to be done. Accurate information about the state of the Trust Funds is a crucial input into effective policy making.

The work needed to finalize the Trustees' annual reports for 2016 is ongoing. Maintaining the integrity of the information in the reports has taken an unusually large amount of time in recent years because of complex changes in legal, regulatory, and economic conditions. Additionally, the Boards are working to prepare the report this year without the benefit of input from the two Public Trustees because both positions remain vacant at this time. We expect the 2016 Trustees Reports will be finalized and released in the coming days.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Sandra Salstrom, Office of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 622-1900.

Sincerely,

Thomas Patrick Maloney
Senior Advisor, Office of Legislative Affairs

Identical letter sent to:
The Honorable Pat Tiberi