

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 29, 2019

Nancy A. Berryhill
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21207

Dear Acting Commissioner Berryhill:

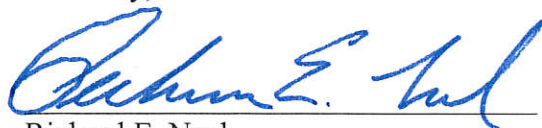
We write to express our serious concerns about the Social Security Administration's failure to negotiate in good faith with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which represents 45,000 of the agency's employees.

Specifically, we are troubled by the agency's insistence on certain anti-union policies that have already been enjoined by the courts. Last year the U.S. District Court enjoined provisions of three Executive Orders undermining federal workers' collective bargaining rights, union representation, and whistleblower protections. Yet SSA is now deliberately pursuing similar policies through contract negotiations.

SSA's employees touch the lives of millions of Americans, ensuring that they are able to receive the benefits they have earned. Every day, they make sure that workers can afford to retire, that people with disabilities can live with dignity, and that widows and dependents are protected from destitution after losing a breadwinner's income. Undermining SSA employees' fundamental workplace rights and collective bargaining rights will immediately weaken the agency's ability to fulfill its mission – delivering quality Social Security services to the public. We will not stand by while that happens.

SSA should immediately return to the bargaining table with AFGE and negotiate in good faith, abandoning its insistence on anti-union policies such as those in the overturned Executive Orders. We look forward to receiving updates on the agency's progress in doing so.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



John B. Larson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Social Security
Committee on Ways and Means



Danny K. Davis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support
Committee on Ways and Means