

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable John Larson  
Chairman, Social Security Subcommittee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Chairman Neal and Social Security Subcommittee Chairman Larson,

Thank you for convening this hearing series on protecting and improving Social Security. We believe Social Security is an important part of the three-legged stool of retirement security and can be improved through focused reforms. We want to work with Democrats to strengthen and improve Social Security for hard working Americans, without devastating tax increases.

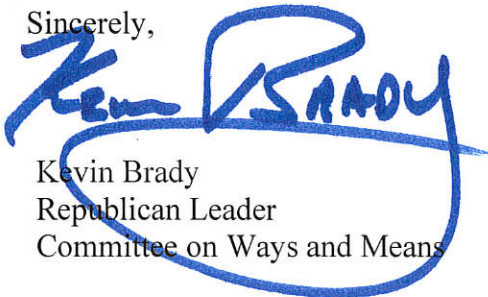
We agree Social Security faces real challenges and know the longer we wait, the harder it becomes. Social Security reform will only succeed when it is a bipartisan effort. Going it alone is not the answer. We also agree there are places where Social Security can – and should – be improved. However, benefit increases for millionaires, paid for by payroll tax hikes on all hardworking Americans, are not the solution. If Ways and Means Democrats are serious about pursuing bipartisan Social Security reform, Ways and Means Republicans are eager to advance this conversation.

Ways and Means Republicans are focused on securing benefits for generations without tax increases. We will accomplish this goal by following the LEAP principles:

- Long-term economic growth by rewarding work, not penalizing it,
- Equal treatment for public servants,
- Act now to protect those future generations, and
- Protect the most vulnerable people through focused reforms.

America's seniors, individuals with disabilities, and our children deserve a serious conversation about Social Security reform. Now is the time for us to work together to make sure Social Security is there for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Ways and Means



Tom Reed  
Republican Leader  
Social Security Subcommittee