

# STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

**...don't cut it.**

March 2, 2021

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The Strengthen Social Security Coalition (SSSC) consists of over 350 national and state organizations, representing over 50 million Americans, including seniors, women, people with disabilities, workers, people of color, veterans, and others. We are writing to express our extremely strong and continued opposition to the TRUST Act, along with any and all other attempts to create fast-track committees or commissions tasked with “reforming” Social Security.

We were extremely disappointed to see such widespread support for [Amendment #803](#), which laid the groundwork for enactment of the TRUST Act, as part of the Senate vote-a-rama during consideration of the FY21 Budget Resolution on February 5, 2021. As we have said before, we consider a vote for the TRUST Act a vote to cut Social Security.

Despite deep political polarization, Americans are united in their support for Social Security. Americans consistently state that Social Security is more important than ever and should not be cut. Under the guise of “fiscal responsibility,” the TRUST Act creates committees that pave the way for Congress to pass cuts to Social Security under a fast-track process that prohibits amendments and provides minimal time for debate. The TRUST Act provides a mechanism for opponents to dismantle Social Security against the will of the people and avoid political accountability by rushing through the cuts while side-stepping the normal legislative process. That lack of political accountability in cutting Social Security is the reason support for the TRUST Act is a vote to cut Social Security.

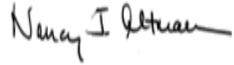
As you prepare for another round of amendments during consideration of the American Rescue Plan Act, we strongly urge the Senate to reject any attempt to include the TRUST Act as part of the COVID relief package. While we understand the Byrd Rule prohibits the inclusion of provisions pertaining to Social Security as part of reconciliation legislation, we also recognize that this amendment, unfortunately, received over 60 votes – the number necessary to waive a point of order – in the vote-a-rama on the Budget Resolution. The American people cannot afford to have the Senate act cavalierly where our Social Security system is concerned. Support for the TRUST Act is such an action.

Social Security is the foundation of retirement security for American workers. Each year this system pulls millions of older adults and children out of poverty. The last major changes to Social Security were made in 1983 based on the recommendations of the Greenspan

Commission. This commission was advisory only. Its recommendations were – and had to be – considered under “regular order” through the Congressional lawmaking process. Social Security is too important to be considered any other way.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Altman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nancy J. Altman  
President