

## CONGRESS SAYS ELON MUSK IS A SCAMMER AND HE IS RUNNING A SCAM

Ranking Member Larson's **Resolution of Inquiry**, cosponsored by every Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, would compel President Trump to disclose to Congress information about 'DOGE' activity at the Social Security Administration, including their plans to close field offices or cut staff.

**You can view Rep. Larson's remarks here.**

“The Chairman just said that there is no way that President Trump is going to touch Social Security — even though he called it a scam. And Elon Musk was on television again saying that yes, their goal is to privatize Social Security,” **said Larson**. “Given these statements, I do not understand why there is a problem with bringing forth Mr. Musk to testify before this committee. If all these ideas of fraud, abuse, and waste are true, then yes, Mr. Chairman, we should join with you to make sure that that's the case. Three weeks ago, I sent a letter asking for him to come immediately before the subcommittee, and we will continue to do that because we want to hear, as does the American public, the truth.”

Even after President Trump claimed he would not cut Social Security, Elon Musk identified Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security as **key targets** for the Administration's cuts on Fox Business this week.

Reports have come out that the Trump Administration plans to close Social Security field and hearing offices and significantly reduce staff at the Social Security Administration (SSA). Along with the Resolution of Inquiry, Larson **introduced** the **Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act** to put a moratorium on the closure of Social Security Field Offices and the **Protecting Americans' Social Security Data Act** to block 'DOGE' access to sensitive beneficiary data.

Rep. Larson **sent a letter** with 152 Democrats to Acting Social Security Commissioner Leland Dudek urging him to halt plans for field and hearing office closures and for gutting the workforce. As Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he has

requested **an immediate hearing** about 'DOGE' activity at the Social Security Administration.

See a full transcript of his opening remarks from the mark-up below:

Thank you, Mr. Neal, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, it's a sad day for America. When the Committee of cognizance has to have this issue of inquiry, so that we can actually produce before the committee, instead of an empty seat and empty chairs, the person who President Trump has designated to find \$2 trillion worth of cuts, a person who has publicly said that he knows where to find those. They're in what he calls entitlements — what everybody on this committee knows, with regard to Social Security, House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Ranking Member John B. Larson (CT-01) released the following statement after Acting Social Security Administration (SSA) Commissioner Dudek's comments that 'DOGE' is making decisions about the agency's future without an understanding of how the agency works were reported in the Washington Post.

"Today's reporting is further insight into Elon Musk and Donald Trump's attempt to weaken the Social Security Administration and their operations, with the ultimate goal of seeking to privatize wherever they can," said Larson. "Acting Commissioner Dudek's comments are all the more reason why we must bring Musk, his 'DOGE,' and Mr. Dudek before the Ways and Means Committee in Congress for a public hearing to get to the truth of their real agenda. These cuts could lead to the disruption, delay, and denial of Americans' hard-earned benefits, putting our seniors at risk of missing Social Security payments for the first time in the program's history. Democrats will continue to speak up to protect Social Security from these cuts and demand answers from the Trump Administration and their unaccountable 'DOGE.' We need at least three of our Republican colleagues to stand with us and put an end to this Trump-Musk scheme to gut Social Security, all so they can pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent."

This week, Rep. Larson introduced three bills with House Democrats in response to DOGE's reckless efforts to gut Social Security. Their plan would stop the closure of field offices, protect beneficiaries' sensitive data, and compel the Trump Administration to come clean to Congress on their plans at SSA. He led 152 Democrats in a letter urging Commissioner Dudek to halt these cuts and the closure of Social Security offices that are occurring on his watch. As Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he has requested an immediate hearing on 'DOGE' activities at SSA. is an earned benefit that they pay.

And so the people in your districts are wondering whether or not — because the chairman just said that there's no way that President Trump is going to touch Social Security — even though last weekend he called it a scam. And that Elon Musk was on television just last night again saying that yes, their goal is to privatize Social Security. Given these statements, I don't understand why there's a problem with bringing forth Mr. Musk to testify before this committee. And if all these ideas of fraud, abuse, and waste are true, then yes, Mr. Chairman, we should join with you to make sure that that's the case.

But even the acting [Social Security Commissioner] hand-picked by Trump has said: 'well, what they said about people receiving checks older than 115 years old is false.'

That's Trump's appointment saying that.

And so, we continue to get the 'Big Lie,' including this weekend again. Where they said, oh yes, and the Democratic plan is to bring illegal immigrants into the country by offering to pay them Social Security. There's not a thread of truth to any of that.

And yet, this unaccountable person, not a federal employee, not a volunteer, but a special person who's not had to go through Senate approval, and who this committee is now saying 'yes, we agree with the president. He should not be accountable. He should be able to have free reign and do whatever he wants. We will willingly follow him and do whatever he says because he's the wealthiest man in the world, and surely, he must know how to save us from ourselves.'

This program of Social Security that oh just happens to be the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly and for the children of this country. Yeah, I agree, Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump aren't going to lose a moment's sleep thinking about the privatization and what it means to those individuals.

And yes, you can say that he's not going to do this, but yet there's no commissioner here, no person under oath raising their hand and saying, 'yes, no, we have no intention of privatizing Social Security.'

He's made it clear time and time again, and if not, well, by all means, we'll be happy to have him here.

We've sent letters. Chairman Estes knows — three weeks ago, I sent a letter asking for him to come immediately before the subcommittee, and we'll continue to do that because we want to hear, as does the American public, the truth.

**Issues:** [Congressman Larson's Committees Social Security 2100 Act](#)

*“When you hear Elon Musk and Donald Trump, take them at their word,” **said Larson.** “They believe Medicare and Social Security are entitlements. They are not. They are earned benefits that hard-working people have paid for. Why are they going after this? It is not to deal with the debt, but to hand out more tax cuts to the billionaire class that they represent. All anyone has to do is look at their pay stub – FICA – Federal Insurance Contributions Act – to see that is money you have paid into the Social Security Trust Funds. Trump and Musk are after it so they can privatize the system. We must bring them before the Ways and Means Committee to provide answers for the American public, but thus far, Republicans have blocked our attempts to get to the truth. Democrats will continue to fight to protect these programs from Trump and Musk’s disastrous ‘DOGE’ plans. We are looking for three Republicans to stand with us. Are there any Republicans who will stand up to Trump and Musk, or do they agree that these benefits should be cut and privatized?”*

**House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Ranking Member John B. Larson (CT-01)** released the following statement after the Trump-appointed Acting Commissioner of Social Security announced the agency is **changing the default overpayment withholding rate** for Social Security beneficiaries from 10% to 100%. This means that beneficiaries who were overpaid benefits, often through no fault of their own, could lose their entire monthly Social Security check.

“Elon Musk and Donald Trump are showing just how cruel they are,” **said Larson**. “They will not lose a minute of sleep while seniors lose their entire checks, often through no fault of their own. Many Social Security beneficiaries already struggle to make ends meet. Their benefits are what allows them to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and put gas in their cars.

“If this was about anything other than ripping money out of seniors’ hands to pay for a tax cut for themselves and their billionaire friends, they would not be recklessly gutting the workforce of an already understaffed agency and increasing the likelihood of agency mistakes,” **Larson continued**. “Last year, Republicans called for relief from clawbacks. Where do they stand now?”

During the Biden Administration, former Commissioner Martin O’Malley set the default withholding rate to 10%, significantly reducing financial hardship for people with overpayments. As the Commissioner **said at the time**: “It’s unconscionable that someone would find themselves facing homelessness or unable to pay bills, because Social Security withheld their entire payment for recovery of an overpayment.”

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“Today’s reporting is further insight into Elon Musk and Donald Trump’s attempt to weaken the Social Security Administration and their operations, with the ultimate goal of seeking to privatize wherever they can,” **said Larson**. “Acting Commissioner Dudek’s comments are all the more reason why we must bring Musk, his ‘DOGE,’ and Mr. Dudek before the Ways and Means Committee in Congress for a public hearing to get to the truth of their real agenda. These cuts could lead to the disruption, delay, and denial of Americans’ hard-earned benefits, putting our seniors at risk of missing Social Security payments for the first time in the program’s history. Democrats will continue to speak up

to protect Social Security from these cuts and demand answers from the Trump Administration and their unaccountable 'DOGE.' We need at least three of our Republican colleagues to stand with us and put an end to this Trump-Musk scheme to gut Social Security, all so they can pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent.”

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