

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

January 27, 2020

Dear President Trump,

We are alarmed by comments you made last week while in Davos, Switzerland, that suggest you plan to cut vital entitlement programs. Asked if such cuts would be on your agenda, you responded: “At some point they will be [...] toward the end of the year,” and that cutting such critical programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid would be “the easiest of all things.”¹ We urge you to retract these statements and publicly commit to protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for the remainder of your presidency.

Social Security and Medicare are vital programs that millions of Americans earned and rely on. Medicare provides quality health insurance for 44 million older Americans and people with disabilities. Social Security provides critical income for 64 million Americans.² Cutting these programs would be a direct attack on working Americans, and would violate the repeated promises you made not to cut Social Security or Medicare as a presidential candidate.

In 2017, you signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), legislation passed by a Republican-controlled Congress that lavished the wealthy and corporations with significant tax cuts. Not only did these tax cuts go overwhelmingly to the wealthy – further fueling economic inequality– they also exploded our nation’s deficit. The tax cuts appear to be adding even more to the deficit than the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected soon after TCJA’s enactment – due largely to dramatic reductions in corporate tax revenue.³

Your tax law is fueling the budget deficit used by you and members of your administration to justify deep cuts to Social Security and Medicare. Following its passage, CBO estimated your tax law would add \$1.9 trillion to the deficit over the 2018-27 period.⁴ Indeed, the Department of Treasury recently reported that the federal deficit surpassed \$1 trillion in 2019.⁵ We will not allow the higher deficits brought about by your tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations to be used as a cynical justification to fulfill the long-held Republican endeavor to destroy Social Security and Medicare.

As a presidential candidate, you promised the American people that you would not cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. In fact, you criticized your political opponents for failing to make the same promise.⁶ Not only have you broken that promise, you have waged an

¹ <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/22/davos-2020-cnbc-full-interview-with-president-trump.html>

² <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/basicfact-alt.pdf>

³ <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxvox/revisions-revenue-projections-suggest-tcja-cost-more-expected>

⁴ <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/54994>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/13/business/budget-deficit-1-trillion-trump.html>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/596338364187602944?lang=en>

all-out assault on Medicaid. Attempting to make up the trillion dollar deficit created by your tax law on the backs of hard-working Americans would be a betrayal to all who consider these programs a lifeline. American workers who for decades have paid into Social Security and Medicare should not be forced to relinquish their health and retirement security to pay for your tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations.

We urge you to immediately clarify your plans for these programs, direct your administration officials to refrain from cutting or otherwise attacking Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and publicly commit to the American people that you will not cut these earned benefits for the remainder of your presidency. The American people who have paid for and rely on these programs deserve nothing less.


Sincerely,



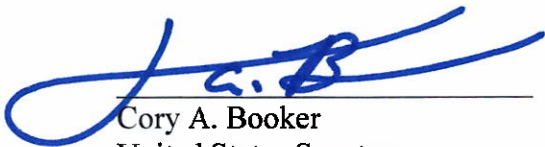
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



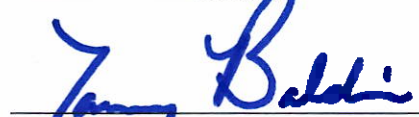
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



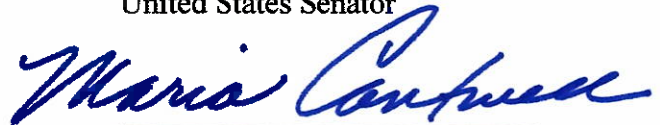
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



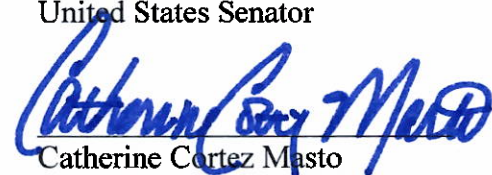
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



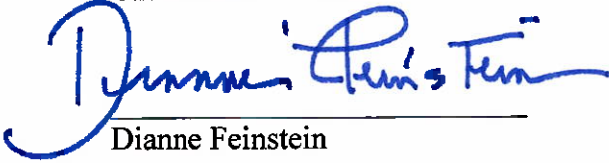
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



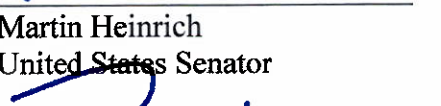
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



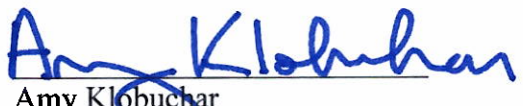
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



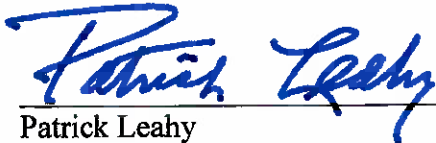
Mazi K. Hirono
United States Senator



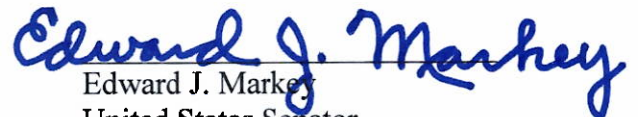
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



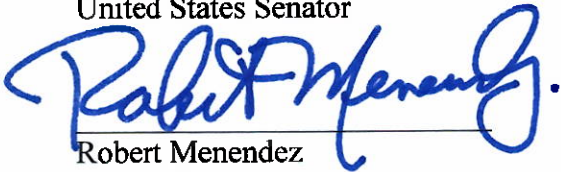
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



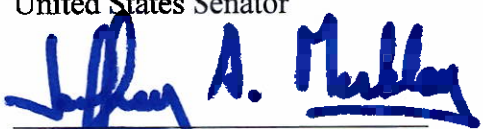
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Patty Murray
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Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



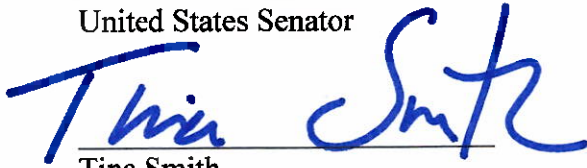
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



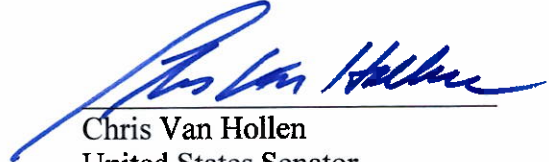
Tina Smith
United States Senator



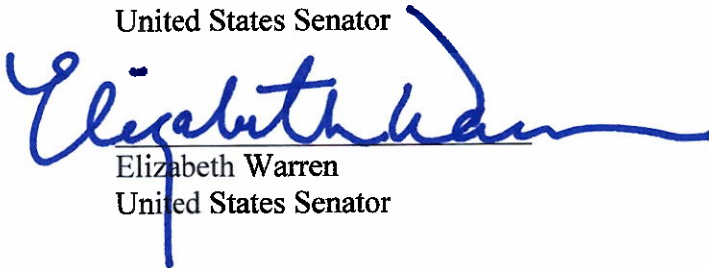
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



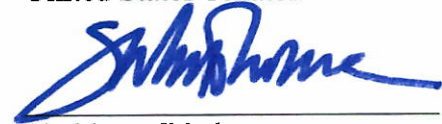
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator