

U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice L. Davids
Kansas Third District

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Frank J. Bisignano
Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Secretary Bessent and Commissioner Bisignano,

I am writing to request clarity on federal taxes on Social Security benefits. Public statements from the administration have claimed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* eliminated these taxes, but the law itself and agency guidance indicate otherwise. America's seniors deserve honesty from their government as they plan for retirement and prepare to file their taxes.

As enacted, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* created a temporary tax deduction of \$6,000 for eligible seniors, in effect from 2025 through 2028.¹ While this deduction may provide relief for some, it does not eliminate federal taxes on Social Security benefits. Rather, this deduction exists alongside those continued taxes. Nonpartisan estimates indicate that fewer than half of seniors nationwide will benefit from the deduction at all.²

Despite this, President Trump and the White House have repeatedly and publicly stated that the law eliminated taxes on Social Security benefits.³ That claim is incorrect and misleading. In July, the Social Security Administration issued a correction clarifying that taxes on Social Security benefits have not been eliminated.

When the federal government provides conflicting or inaccurate information, it undermines trust and places an unfair burden on seniors who are trying to make responsible financial decisions. As Americans navigate retirement planning and the 2026 tax season, clarity is not optional—it is essential.

¹ <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-tax-deductions-for-working-americans-and-seniors>

² <https://taxpolicycenter.org/model-estimates/T25-0242>

³ <https://x.com/WhiteHouse/status/2015789236209827869?s=20>

This comes after a year of uncertainty and fear for folks who rely on Social Security. Under Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the ongoing fallout, seniors have faced threats of cuts to vital Social Security Administration services, baseless claims of widespread fraud, and damaging comments dismissing Social Security as a "scam"⁴ and "Ponzi scheme."⁵ Americans who have paid into Social Security over a lifetime of work should never have to wonder whether their earned benefits will be there when they need them.

Given the seriousness of these issues and the need for clear, factual guidance, I ask for your administration's clarification by responding, in writing, to the following questions by April 1, 2026:

1. Did the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* directly eliminate federal taxes on Social Security? If so, will agency guidance be corrected? If not, will administration officials commit to correcting public statements that claim otherwise?
2. Are Americans still required to report Social Security income on their federal tax filings?
3. Is implementation of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* expected to accelerate insolvency of Social Security?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Millions of Americans — and especially seniors — depend on Social Security and on straightforward, truthful information from their government. I urge your administration to provide clarity and transparency they deserve. I look forward to reviewing your responses.

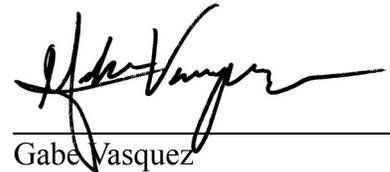
Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/live/pnH_na_TjnQ

⁵ <https://fortune.com/2025/03/03/elon-musk-joe-rogan-podcast-doge-social-security-biggest-ponzi-scheme-of-all-time/>

Angie Craig

Angie Craig

Member of Congress