



August 13, 2020

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, we write to ask you for a more complete explanation of your recent statements suggesting elimination of the current dedicated funding for Social Security. The foundation of Social Security, for 85 years, is that workers and employers pay into the program, and workers earn their benefits. AARP believes permanent elimination of payroll contributions would put Social Security benefits at risk for both current and future retirees.

Social Security is arguably the most important and successful program in our nation's history. It is the largest source of retirement income for most Americans and provides nearly all income (90 percent or more) for one in four seniors. The American public overwhelmingly supports Social Security, and that support remains high across party lines and age groups.

Suspending, reducing, or eliminating the contributions to Social Security made through the payroll tax will interfere with Social Security's long-term funding stream. As AARP said in a letter to President Obama in 2012, payroll tax holidays "undermine confidence in Social Security and put at risk the program's dedicated funding stream and the hard-earned benefits of millions of Americans and their families."

The American public deserves to hear your plan on how you would replace that funding, and how people can count on receiving their hard-earned Social Security benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jo Ann Jenkins'.

Jo Ann Jenkins  
Chief Executive Officer