



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001  
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • [www.ifpte.org](http://www.ifpte.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Candace Rhett, (202) 239-4880

## **Senators Van Hollen, Cardin step up in support of SSA workers IFPTE International, AALJ call the Senators support, “much needed”**

WASHINGTON, DC – Maryland Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin are seeking answers from the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding their decision to unilaterally and illegally implement three damaging Executive Orders issued by President Trump on July 9<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Executive Order issued on July 10<sup>th</sup> to politicize the hiring of federal Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). In letters to the current Acting Commissioner and Associate Commissioner – as well as Andrew Saul and David Black, who have been nominated for Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, respectively – Senators Van Hollen and Cardin wrote that, “SSA leadership has abrogated its collective bargaining agreement,” and that, “we are also concerned about protecting the independence of Administrative Law Judges (ALJs), in light of President Trump’s more recent Executive Order removing these positions from the competitive service.”

IFPTE International and IFPTE Judicial Council 1/Association of Administrative Law Judges (AALJ) welcomed the news:

Judicial Council 1/AALJ President, Judge Marilyn Zahm:

“We applaud both Senators Van Hollen and Cardin for stepping up in support of the rule of law at SSA. Unfortunately, SSA was all too eager to implement the Executive Orders, even though our union has a pending contract in place. Their unilateral implementation violates our contract, and even the Executive Orders themselves, which clearly state that agencies are not to ‘abrogate’ collective bargaining agreements currently in effect. The behavior of the SSA is truly lawless, at this point, and the oversight of them by Senators Van Hollen and Cardin is much needed.”

IFPTE President, Paul Shearon:

“The Social Security Administration has a much-deserved reputation for being one of, if not the most hostile agency towards their workforce and their unions in the entire federal government. Their decision to unilaterally implement these Executive Orders, and in violation of pending contracts, only solidifies this stain on the SSA. This is even more profound when you consider that the workers at the SSA, including IFPTE represented ALJs, serve those most in need of service each day, including some of our most vulnerable citizens. During a time when the Congressional majority is doing nothing while abdicating their lawmaking role to the Trump Administration, IFPTE is appreciative that Senators Van Hollen and Cardin are seeking to hold the current SSA leadership, and those who hope to lead the agency, accountable.”

IFPTE is an AFL-CIO affiliated labor union representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the private, public and federal sectors, including 1,400 SSA ALJs.

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