



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

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
President

GAY HENSON
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

John Mader
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
WESTERN

Katie Barrows
SOUTHEAST

Frances Hsieh
WESTERN

Michelle Johnston
CANADIAN

R Matthew Joyce
SPEEA

Joan Mah
WESTERN

Richard Mahé
CANADIAN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Renaë McKenzie
EASTERN FEDERAL

Steven Pinto
ATLANTIC

Denise Robinson
NORTHEAST

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Jamie Uyeunten
WESTERN FEDERAL

Gus Vallejo
WESTERN

May 26, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 workers represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing regarding the Social Security 2100 Act of 2023, announced by the bill's sponsor, Congressman John Larson, Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee. IFPTE believes that the Social Security 2100 Act is a necessary step forward in further solidifying our nation's retirement security for many years to come and we ask you to cosponsor the bill.

Given that defined benefit pensions are unfortunately becoming rare in America, along with the fact that more than half of working Americans have little to no savings for retirement, it is critical that now more than ever we make sure our Social Security system will be there to help our nation withstand what could be a retirement crisis in the very near future. While some in Congress have mistakenly argued for reducing Social Security benefits, IFPTE believes that Social Security benefits need to be increased. In IFPTE's view, the Social Security 2100 Act is a common-sense approach to this problem.

IFPTE supports expanding the Social Security benefit while also ensuring the system's solvency well into the future, both of which this bill achieves. The legislation puts in place a more realistic cost-of-living increase that is directly linked to the inflation experienced by seniors, thereby strengthening, not weakening the buying power of Social Security beneficiaries. It will also protect our seniors from living in poverty by increasing benefits for lower-income seniors, improving the Cost-of-Living Adjustment to better reflect inflation, and providing caregiver credits for people taking time out of the workforce to care for dependents. Significantly, the Social Security 2100 Act repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that unfairly reduce the earned Social Security benefits of more than 2 million public servants.

IFPTE is pleased that the legislation pays for itself by extending the payroll tax on earnings over \$400,000 of income and closing the tax loophole for investment income while maintaining the current limit on annual earnings subject to Social Security taxes. This approach includes a practical funding mechanism that we hope will allow this bill to achieve strong bipartisan support. Ideally, IFPTE supports lifting the earnings cap more quickly, which would reduce the need to increase the current 6.2% payroll tax that both employees and employers are subject to.

Regardless, the legislation meets IFPTE's fundamental goals of expanding the Social Security benefit, further shoring up the trust fund, and funding it through a progressive pay-for. IFPTE is pleased to support the Social Security 2100 Act and encourages you to cosponsor the legislation. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us, or IFPTE legislative director Faraz Khan, at (202) 239-4892.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Biggs,
President

Gay Henson,
Secretary-Treasurer