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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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February 7, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC, 20500

President Biden:

I write to inform you that Gail Ennis has lost my confidence in her ability to effectively serve as Inspector General of the Social Security Administration (SSA OIG). I urge you to remove her.

The Social Security Inspector General plays a critical role in overseeing the administration of Social Security's programs and operations and is a vital resource to Congress as it evaluates legislative changes to strengthening the program. When Inspector General Ennis appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance as a nominee, she assured me and my colleagues that she would establish a culture that welcomes debate, collaboration, and transparency, which is why I supported her nomination.

Unfortunately, over her five-year tenure as Inspector General, those promises appear to have been hollow. Since taking the helm at SSA OIG, her office has gone from one of the highest performing in government, to one in disarray. Under her leadership, SSA OIG has been plagued by complaints of a hostile work environment, retaliatory civil lawsuits filed against fellow employees, abysmal staff morale ratings, and falling productivity.

In 2021, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association issued a rare vote of "no confidence," citing concerns regarding "erroneous policies that hamper investigative capacity." I raised these concerns in a letter to her. Nearly three years later, staff morale has worsened, and the Partnership for Public Service's annual Best Places to Work in the federal government ranked SSA OIG the second-worst agency in the federal government.<sup>1</sup>

Most concerning, the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board has recently found that Inspector General Ennis and her leadership team have retaliated against one of her employees for blowing

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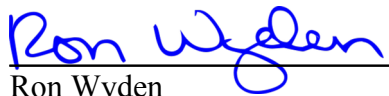
<sup>1</sup> Partnership for Public Service, 2022 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings, (Apr. 12, 2023) accessible at <https://bestplacestowork.org/rankings/detail/?c=SZ05>.

the whistle.<sup>2</sup> As you know, whistleblowers provide the American people an invaluable service, raising concerns of waste, fraud and abuse within the Federal Government, risking retaliation from their employer, colleagues, or other accomplices. It is imperative that leaders across the entire Federal Government promote a workplace free of harassment, intimidation, or retaliation. Inspector General Ennis has failed in this regard.

I have written to Inspector General Ennis several times over the past three years demanding answers on this disturbing trend. Rather than taking accountability, Inspector General Ennis has provided empty promises, refused to acknowledge her shortcomings, and attempted to discredit the whistleblowers she was found to have retaliated against.

I urge you to take immediate action to bring new leadership to SSA OIG so the office can focus on its vital work overseeing the administration of Social Security programs and operations.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator  
Chairman, Committee on  
Finance

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<sup>2</sup> Shaw, Deborah v. Soc. Sec. Admin., M.S.P.B. No. PH-1221-21-0091-W-1, 2024 WL 76665 (Jan. 4, 2024).