

Opening Statement of Arjun Mody

Nominee to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security

Before the Senate Finance Committee

October 29, 2025

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee:

It is my honor to be the President's nominee to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Social Security.

President Trump has been strong and straightforward about Social Security: preserve and protect the promise for every eligible American.

If confirmed, I will carry that charge; I will take the President's clear commitment to Social Security and go to work for every American. From the moment a child receives a Social Security card to the moment a family receives a death benefit; Americans will have an agency that works for them.

The Social Security Number is one of the most widely used forms of identification in our nation, and Social Security benefits are the foundation of many Americans' retirement planning. In all, Social Security tangibly serves every American.

SSA must deliver premier service and maintain pristine controls.

I have been fortunate to learn from giants of the Senate—Senators Dole, Hutchison, and Barrasso. Whip Barrasso, I am humbled by your introduction.

Importantly, I am supported by my faith and family. My wife, Dr. Amee Garg, is here with me.

Allow me to briefly share why public service is important to me:

My father immigrated to the United States during the Nixon Administration. He arrived at JFK Airport with eight dollars in his pocket. He worked days at chemical sites, rode the subway to Brooklyn in the evenings to earn a master's degree, and slept at night in the hallway of a group apartment.

For the last 25 years of his career, he proudly served our nation's veterans at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey.

From him I learned that public service is a noble calling. And in his retirement, as he received his government pension and his Social Security check, he would often say to me, "God bless America."

That is why I see the work of the Social Security Administration as two inseparable imperatives: **service and control**.

- **Service:** Deliver the best possible experience for every American—whether in person at a field office, over the phone with a representative, or online through “mySSA.” We must equip our workforce with the leadership, systems, and processes to excel in every channel of service.
- **Control:** Be timely and accurate in payments, drive down error rates, constantly monitor outlays, understand the actuarial analysis, get our backlogs cleared, and update rules. We must safeguard SSA’s data systems, protect personal information, and ensure the public’s trust.

This is an immense operational and financial challenge—a 50,000-person workforce, over 1,200 field offices, and a \$1.5 trillion annual spend. It demands experienced leadership, operational excellence, and pragmatic problem-solving.

If confirmed, I will take on this challenge in partnership with Commissioner Bisignano. Together, we will make Social Security great, and it will be historic.

Thank you.