

## **Recognize Social Security Workers: The Dedicated Few Standing Strong**

This Public Service Recognition Week, we must acknowledge the remarkable dedication of Social Security Administration employees who continue serving America against mounting challenges.

These public servants remain steadfastly committed to Social Security's vital mission despite facing:

- Severe understaffing and lack of resources that makes every day a challenge to serve
- Insufficient communication from agency leadership regarding critical operational changes
- Incentivized departures through buyout programs, firings, and expected layoffs that deplete institutional knowledge
- Unilateral mandates that contradict previously established agreements
- Attempts to weaken union representation through security-based reclassifications that ignore the union's proven contributions to government efficiency
- Threats of Schedule F politicization that could undermine merit-based civil service
- Proposed legislation that would significantly alter retirement benefits, potentially triggering a 25% exodus of retirement-eligible workers, widen the existing 28% public-private sector pay gap, and severely hamper recruitment and retention efforts wasting taxpayer resources

The consequences extend beyond workforce challenges—Americans face reduced access to their earned Social Security benefits through understaffed offices, with the agency considering further office closures and consolidations due to personnel shortages.

We must thank Social Security employees not just this week but every day for their extraordinary resilience and unwavering dedication. America's strength depends on its committed federal workforce, and the Social Security Administration cannot fulfill its promise without these dedicated public servants who administer this essential program.