**PROTECT SSA: RALLY TALKING POINTS**

**THE CRISIS AT SOCIAL SECURITY**

* SSA workforce stripped to the BONE – at 50-YEAR LOW while serving 10,000 NEW beneficiaries DAILY
* Americans already waiting EIGHT MONTHS for disability decisions, HOURS or days to get through on phones
* 30,000 AMERICANS DIE EACH YEAR while waiting for benefit decisions
* If return-to-office mandates stand, workforce could COLLAPSE from 50,000 to just 25,000
* 20% of SSA workers are VETERANS with service-related disabilities – facing the door with CALLOUS CRUELTY

**THE HUMAN COST**

* Half our nation's seniors rely SOLELY on Social Security
* Without local offices, WHERE will the vulnerable, technology-deficient, and elderly go?
* Field office closures would ABANDON communities without essential services
* Cuts would DEVASTATE service: CRIPPLING delays, benefit DISRUPTIONS, SURGING improper payments
* MANY MORE AMERICANS WILL DIE waiting for their EARNED benefits if staffing is slashed
* The White House reportedly wants to SLASH 7,500 federal leases – of which SSA owns 1,500 including 1200 community based field offices.

**WORKER PROTECTIONS DISMANTLED**

* ESSENTIAL workplace protection departments like the Office of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity are being GUTTED
* Employees with disabilities will have NOWHERE to turn for denied reasonable accommodation requests
* Workplace discrimination and harassment victims LEFT DEFENSELESS
* The VERY DEPARTMENTS that ensure workplace equity and fairness are VANISHING

**THE TRUTH ABOUT SSA**

* We manage $1.5 TRILLION in benefits for 73 MILLION Americans
* SSA operates with less than 1% overhead – compared to 10-20% for private insurance!
* Reports of widespread fraud are FALSE – improper payments below 1%
* Social Security DOLLARS FUEL local economies and small businesses EVERYWHERE
* 87% of Americans AGREE that Social Security should remain a NATIONAL PRIORITY

**THE SOLUTION**

* Fund SSA at historic 1.2% of benefit outlays
* INCREASE staff by 20,000 from 2024 levels
* PRESERVE community-based service offices
* STOP the lease terminations and office closures
* PROTECT our SSA workforce
* CALL CONGRESS and DEMAND they answer their constituents – KEEP SSA OFFICES OPEN and FULLY STAFFED!

**Americans DESERVE a fully staffed, fully funded Social Security Administration. They've ALREADY PAID FOR IT!**