



July 24, 2019

Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we would like to submit the following comments for the record in connection with tomorrow's hearing on the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 860).

Educators support the Social Security 2100 Act because it would:

- **Increase benefits across the board.** All beneficiaries would get an increase equivalent to 2 percent of the average benefit.
- **Calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) more accurately.** The CPI-E formula specified in the bill reflects reality: seniors spend a greater portion of their income on health care and other necessities than the general population.
- **Increase the minimum benefit to ensure that low-earning workers do not retire into poverty.** The new minimum benefit would be set at 25 percent above the poverty line, not below it, and indexed to wages to ensure that seniors do not fall behind.
- **Ensure that Social Security remains on a firm financial footing.** The payroll tax rate would gradually rise from 12.4 to 14.8 percent and, for the first time, apply to annual earnings over \$400,000.

Overall, H.R. 860 would give today's workers peace of mind—a sense of security—that they will receive the Social Security benefits they have earned. We are pleased to support this vitally important legislation.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association