



U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
**AGING ACTION REPORT**  
 FROM RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

## DEAR FRIEND,

As a South Carolinian who grew up along the coast, I am all too familiar with natural disasters like hurricanes and floods. I recently held a hearing titled “Inclusive Disaster Management: Improving Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.” Throughout the hearing, we examined the effects of natural disasters on older Americans and people with disabilities, and we discussed ways to improve disaster response and preparedness on their behalf. Read on for more about the hearing and other recent efforts to improve the lives of our nation’s seniors!

**RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT**



## AGING HEARING DEBRIEF: INCLUSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT—IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

On Thursday, November 18th, Ranking Member Tim Scott and the Senate Committee on Aging held a hearing discussing disaster management and how to improve preparedness, response, and recovery for older Americans. During the hearing, RM Scott provided remarks on his disaster prevention work, including his Repeatedly Flooded Communities Act; his disaster response work, including his FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries Act; and his disaster recovery work, including his letter urging FEMA to review and revise its practices.

Ranking Member Scott and committee members also heard from a panel of witnesses who testified on the state of disaster management efforts across the country.

South Carolina resident Randy Creamer, Vice Chairman of South Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, testified on lessons he has learned working in disaster relief over the years.





## CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO STOP POLITICIZING AMERICANS' SAVINGS

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently announced a proposal that allows Wall Street asset managers to promote global warming and other environmental, social, and governance objectives using the hard-earned funds of U.S. workers and retirees.

This December, Ranking Member Scott joined U.S. Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Pat Toomey, U.S. Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo, and U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Ranking Member Richard Burr on a letter to DOL Secretary Marty Walsh. The ranking members used the DOL to immediately withdraw its proposal and prioritize the savings of American workers and retirees above partisan political interests.

## URGING SSA TO REOPEN FIELD OFFICES TO THE PUBLIC

For nearly 21 months, SSA offices have not been fully open, resulting in disruptions to the millions of applicants and beneficiaries receiving Social Security benefits, including:

- Challenges for individuals, especially seniors in rural areas, who do not have reliable telephone or internet access;
- A reduction in Supplemental Security Income awards and disability benefit approvals; and
- Mail backlogs and delays in providing benefit payments.

Ranking Member Scott and U.S. Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo sent a letter urging Acting Social Security Administration (SSA) Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi to immediately reopen SSA's field offices to the public. Ranking Member Scott is committed to this issue because, as the senators wrote in their letter, "Social Security is a bedrock of our nation's social safety net."

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## THE SWEET TEA

Did you know that loneliness and isolation can increase seniors' risk of heart disease and other conditions, according to the CDC?

Here are some tips for reducing loneliness this holiday season!

1. Actively listen to loved ones
2. Remind loved ones how important they are
3. Help add festive touches to their home or room
4. Cook baked goods or treats
5. Make a phone call or zoom if you cannot be together safely in-person



Source: AgingCare.com

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