

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 20, 2011

Michael J. Astrue  
National Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
Office of Public Inquiries  
Windsor Park Building  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Mr. Astrue:

I received a Social Security Administration letter of June 7 regarding the proposed consolidation of Social Security field offices in my district, such that there would be a single field office, located in the Jackson Federal Building at 915 Second Avenue. I understand that reduced funding for Social Security's administrative expenses requires finding savings somewhere. I also understand that the proposed location may be advantageous in terms of public transit, efficiency, and safety. Nevertheless, I have serious concerns that the proposed location may create barriers for the public in accessing services. Specifically, my understanding is that the Jackson building requires all individuals to present valid state or federal photo identification to enter. Many individuals needing Social Security services, especially homeless or low-income individuals, lack such identification and thus would not be able to gain entry. Without entry, they might not be served. This would be unacceptable.

Please reexamine this issue and provide explanation of how public access would be ensured in the proposed location. Should you have questions or wish to discuss, please contact my District Director, Darcy Nothnagle, at (206) 553-7170. Discussion now may allow us to avoid greater challenges in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to public service.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT  
Member of Congress

cc: Regional Commissioner Stanley Friendship