



## SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of Communications

October 26, 2011

Mr. David Leopold  
President  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
1331 G Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Leopold:

Thank you for your May 4, 2011 inquiry. Commissioner Astrue asked me to reply on his behalf and I apologize for the delayed response. We appreciate your interest in the Decentralized Correspondence (DECOR) letters. In your correspondence, you ask that Social Security immediately terminate its voluntary mailing of no-match DECOR letters to employers. Below is the status of the no-match DECOR mailings.

Beginning August 29, 2011, Social Security suspended sending employer DECOR letters because of the current budget situation. The estimated annual figure for savings from the suspension is \$523,000 for tax year 2011. This savings, in conjunction with our other money savings initiatives will better position us to meet the needs of the American public.

Congress provided our agency with nearly \$1 billion less than the President requested for our budget this fiscal year. Given the tight budget situation, we have had to make tough choices. These include, among other things, an 80 percent reduction in overtime for our front line employees, the decision to close field offices to the public 30 minutes early, and not being able to replace the nearly 1,600 field office employees who we have lost during the fiscal year due to a hiring freeze.

We will continue to review all aspects of our operations for ways to balance cost savings with our agency goals and mission.

Thank you for your input regarding the employer DECOR letters. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-965-1804.

Sincerely,

Kojuan Almond  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
for External Affairs