



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: 2025-FOIA-01962

September 15, 2025

Ms. Skye Perryman & Mr. Aman George
Democracy Forward Foundation
PO Box 34553
Washington, DC 20043
foia@democracyforward.org

Dear Ms. Perryman & Mr. George:

I am responding to your May 22, 2025 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for the following:

1. All guidance, memoranda, or directives received by SSA from the White House, the Domestic Policy Council, the Presidential Personnel Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. Digital Service, or the U.S. [Department of Government Efficiency] “DOGE” Service that were sent on or after January 20, 2025.
2. All guidance, memoranda, or directives created or agreed to by SSA on or after January 20, 2025 regarding information sharing with [the Department of Homeland Security] DHS, specifically regarding immigration data as well as the classification of living immigrants as dead and the process to ensure the accuracy of said information.

You advised your request seeks records from February 15, 2025 until the date of the search.

We reviewed your request for item # 1 and have determined that this is not a proper FOIA request. Your request for “all guidance, memoranda, or directives received by SSA” from the various entities listed lacks sufficient detail for the agency to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. *See* 20 C.F.R. § 402.30(a)(4). SSA is a very large agency, and given the breadth of what you are seeking, with no limiting topic or subject type, responsive records could have come into any component or employee in the agency. As this request is not reasonably described, it is not a proper FOIA request. *See* 20 C.F.R. § 402.30(b).

Regarding item #2, based on what you have asked for, we believe you are seeking records about any agreement or decisions to share immigration data with DHS or to classify living immigrants as deceased. Records responsive to this item have been publicly posted to the FOIA Reading Room under Proactive Disclosures (Current Year). Please see *DHS Email to ACOSS – DHS paroled terminations for SSA_Redacted*, *DHS Secretary Noem Email with Memos to*

ACOSS_Redacted, and *DHS Law Enforcement Request – Commissioner Action_Redacted* at <https://www.ssa.gov/foia/readingroom.html>. The FOIA does not require an agency to provide documents that are already publicly available.

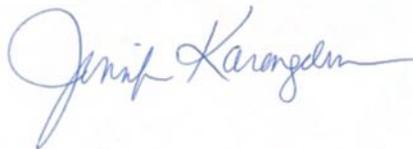
If you have questions or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 833-795-0132.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of SSA that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with “Freedom of Information Appeal.”

Thank you for your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Karangelen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Karangelen
Acting Freedom of Information Officer

From: (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DHS parole terminations for SSA
To: Dudek, Leland C.
Sent: April 8, 2025 9:05 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Hi Lee,

Pursuant to directive from the Secretary of Homeland Security, DHS identified (b) (7)(E) temporarily paroled aliens on the terrorist watch list or with FBI criminal records. Effective April 8, 2025, CBP terminated parole for all these individuals with written notice to each of them. Attached is the full list; please take appropriate action at the Social Security Administration.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

From: Shah, Kala
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Memo from Secretary Noem
To: Dudek, Leland C.; Poist, Chad; Brown, Dustin S.; McGraw, Stephen
Sent: April 7, 2025 11:41 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Signed Memo - SSA v2.pdf

From: Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 6:24:11 PM
To: (b)(6) Shah, Kala (b)(6) >
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Memo from Secretary Noem

Good Evening,

Attached are two memos from Secretary Noem for the Acting Commissioner.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
JJ

Juliana J. Blackwell
Office of the Executive Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

April 7, 2025

To: Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration

From: Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Protecting Our Country from Suspected Terrorists

[Handwritten signature of Kristi Noem]
4-07-25

Social security numbers are the central administrative unit in our country. Having a social security number enables an individual to open a bank account, get a credit card, and file for government benefits. These are privileges that encourage people to remain in the country. Giving these privileges to suspected terrorists without lawful immigration status incentivizes these dangerous individuals to stay in the United States rather than return to their home countries.

This troubling set of incentives raises national security concerns. Millions of individuals without lawful status—including suspected terrorists—remain in the country, fully integrated into society. Yet the President has declared that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people.” *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* § 2 (Jan. 20, 2025). The President has further directed agencies to “adopt policies and procedures to encourage aliens unlawfully in the United States to voluntarily depart as soon as possible.” *Id.* § 12.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) assistance in correcting this perverse set of incentives and ridding the country of individuals who threaten national security. DHS requests that SSA take all measures consistent with law to prevent suspected terrorists who are here illegally from using social security numbers to obtain the privileges reserved for those with lawful status, including but not limited to access to financial institutions, state government agencies, credit bureaus, employers, and any other institutions that use social security numbers for verification. DHS will collaborate with you on this project, providing the necessary immigration information and any other assistance that you may require.

Thank you very much for your help with this critical matter of national security.

www.dhs.gov

2025-HQCO-00076-000002

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

April 7, 2025

To: Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration

From: Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Protecting Our Country from Convicted Criminals

Social security numbers are the central administrative unit in our country. Having a social security number enables an individual to open a bank account, get a credit card, and file for government benefits. These are privileges that encourage people to remain in the country. Giving these privileges to convicted criminals without lawful immigration status incentivizes these dangerous individuals to stay in the United States rather than return to their home countries.

This troubling set of incentives raises national security concerns. Millions of individuals without lawful status—including convicted criminals—remain in the country, fully integrated into society. Yet the President has declared that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people.” Protecting the American People Against Invasion § 2 (Jan. 20, 2025). The President has further directed agencies to “adopt policies and procedures to encourage aliens unlawfully in the United States to voluntarily depart as soon as possible.” *Id.* § 12.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) assistance in correcting this perverse set of incentives and ridding the country of individuals who threaten national security. DHS requests that SSA take all measures consistent with law to prevent convicted criminals who are here illegally from using social security numbers to obtain the privileges reserved for those with lawful status, including but not limited to access to financial institutions, state government agencies, credit bureaus, employers, and any other institutions that use social security numbers for verification. DHS will collaborate with you on this project, providing the necessary immigration information and any other assistance that you may require.

Thank you very much for your help with this critical matter of national security.

www.dhs.gov

2025-HQCO-00076-000003

From: Dudek, Leland C.
Subject: DHS Law Enforcement Request - Commissioner Action
To: Evangelista, Stephen; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Sent: April 7, 2025 7:28 PM (UTC-04:00)

Stephen,

I accept the correspondence from DHS as a valid Law Enforcement request. Per The President's Declaration of a National Emergency - **DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** – SSA has a duty to consistent with law, to take all appropriate action directed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General.

The Social Security Act (SSA) grants the Commissioner of Social Security broad authority to issue regulations and establish procedures, including those related to collecting evidence and determining eligibility for benefits, as outlined in sections 205(a), 1631(d)(1), and 702(a)(5).

SSA has no appropriate mechanism to unenumerated individuals. The Social Security Act is silent on this matter. Therefore, I am directing the Death Master File to be renamed the Ineligible Master File (IMF). The IMF will contain the current records of the DMF and SSN, DOB, and Name Information of those individuals Law Enforcement indicates are ineligible for benefits.

The financial lives of those individuals placed on the IMF, will be terminated in accordance with law enforcement and national security. Please ask DHS to transmit the data file for insertion to the IMF.

Lee Dudek

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 6:52 PM
To: Dudek, Leland C. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Lee,

Earlier today I promised I would share any guidance we received from DHS regarding the issue of national security and SSNs.

(b) (5)

Stephen

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2025 6:44 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6); (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Stephen – see attached from S1.

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 5:27 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

This email is from an external US Government agency.

(b) (6)

Thanks for the update.

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2025 5:23 PM

To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Stephen,

Secretary Noem has executed two memos which we'll be sending over ASAP. Thank you!

Best,

(b) (6)

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 4:22 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

Any update on this guidance? Thanks.

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2025 10:50 PM

To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

I think we got everything figured out, but thank you, Steven! You should be able to expect a memo from DHS by Monday at the latest.

Best,

(b) (6)

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:34 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

Would you like to chat tomorrow?

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2025 7:42 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Hi Stephen,

Please disregard my previous message. Enjoy your weekend!

Best,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 7:00 PM
To: 'Evangelista, Stephen' (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Hi Stephen,

(b) (5)
(b) (5) (b) (6) Thank you!

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 4:06 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

(b) (5)

Stephen

*Stephen Evangelista
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Office of Law and Policy
Social Security Administration*

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2025 1:59 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (5)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 1:20 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6); Evangelista, Stephen
(b) (6)
Subject: Memo Connect

Stephen – connecting you with our legal lead, (b) (6) to discuss next steps. (b) (6) – Stephen is head of policy at SSA.

Thank you both.

(b) (6)