

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2012

The Honorable Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner
United States Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Dear Commissioner Astrue,

We were notified on June 20, 2012 that the Social Security Administration plans to close its field office in Clinton, Iowa this September. This office currently serves the 49,000 residents of Clinton, including over 10,000 current Social Security beneficiaries, who will now have to travel to Davenport if they need to visit a Social Security office.

We are very concerned with this proposed closure and urge you to reconsider. The number of visitors to the Clinton office has increased each of the last three years, from 180 visitors per week in 2009 to 210 in 2012. Many of these individuals would have to travel up to 40 miles further to the Davenport office. In addition, by consolidating these offices, the number of Iowans who have to use the new Davenport office will now exceed the national average population served by a field office.

While we understand the budget constraints facing the agency, we are particularly concerned with the impact this will have on the ability of low-income and disabled residents to communicate with the Social Security Administration. Our understanding is that this office closing is expected to save the Agency approximately \$600,000 over five years. In addition to strongly urging you to reconsider this proposal, we write to request the following information:

- How much does the Social Security Administration plan to save in total from closing offices in fiscal year 2012?
- What other options are there for finding this comparable level of savings elsewhere in the Agency?
- What type of analysis has the Social Security Administration done on the impact of this closure on Clinton County residents, particularly low-income and disabled residents?

- Has the Social Security Administration allowed local residents or stakeholders to weigh in on the potential impact of this closure?

We request a response as soon as possible. Thank you.

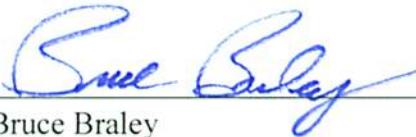
Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress