



Refer to:
S9H: 2025-FOIA-01963

July 17, 2025

Mr. Aman George
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, DC 20043
foia@democracyforward.org

Dear Mr. George:

This letter serves as an interim response to your May 22, 2025 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for the following information from February 15, 2025 through the date of the search:

1. Records reflecting the legal conclusions reached by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and SSA regarding the authorization and legality of adding living individuals to the Death Master File (DMF).
2. All records through which DHS communicated the living individuals it requested be added to the DMF. This would include the emails, spreadsheets, or data files sent to SSA for the purpose of adding living people to the DMF.

Your FOIA request pertains to SSA's April 2025 action that resulted in certain aliens being added to SSA's death records. Please note that, in early June 2025, the agency updated its records so this population would no longer appear as deceased in agency records.

The redacted records responsive to item #2 of your request are publicly available online in our electronic FOIA Reading Room at <https://www.ssa.gov/foia/readingroom.html>. Under the *Proactive Disclosures (Current Year)* heading, view the records entitled: *DHS Email to ACOSS - DHS parole terminations for SSA_Redacted* and *DHS Secretary Noem Email with Memos to ACOSS_Redacted*.

Our response to requested item #1 will be issued upon completion of our search and review of record(s) responsive to item #1 of your request.

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 interim response, 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.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jennifer Karangelen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

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.

**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.