



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

Thank you for your March 12, 2015, letter requesting information about the number of individuals who have applied for and granted Social Security Numbers as a result of the June 15, 2012 memorandum issued by Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano and the President's November 20, 2014 immigration accountability executive actions. In addition, you asked how many of these individuals applied for and received benefits under Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income programs. Answers to your questions are enclosed.

On February 16, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas issued a preliminary injunction preventing implementation of the deferred action policies announced last November. Since the court-ordered injunction, all work on implementation of these new policies has ceased.

I have sent a similar letter to Senator Ben Sasse.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me. Your staff may contact Judy Chesser, our Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, at (202) 358-6030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn W. Colvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner

Enclosure

- 1. How many individuals have applied for SSNs as a result of the June 15, 2012, memorandum issued by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children.**

By the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014, we had issued approximately 541,000 original SSNs to individuals authorized to work under the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy since its inception. We do not maintain data on the number of individuals in this program who applied but were not issued SSNs under this policy.

We have longstanding, rigorous procedures for processing SSN requests. Under our stringent requirements, SSN applicants must present evidence of identity, age, and work-authorized immigration status. As with all SSN applications, we review the evidence submitted for authenticity, and for noncitizens, we also verify immigration and work authorization status directly with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) via an electronic process called the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.¹ We will not issue an SSN if an individual has insufficient or unacceptable documentation. In addition, we will not issue an SSN if DHS is unable to verify the individual’s immigration/work authorization status via SAVE.

- 2. How many individuals have obtained SSNs as a result of the June 15, 2012, memorandum?**

Please see our response to question 1.

- 3. How many individuals have applied for SSNs as a result of the November 20, 2014, memorandum issued by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents”?**

None. On February 16, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas issued a preliminary injunction preventing implementation of the deferred action policies announced last November. The Social Security Administration and DHS are complying with the injunction, and DHS is therefore not accepting applications for deferred action or work authorization based on these policies at this time. We would only issue SSNs to these individuals if DHS began to accept and adjudicate applications and grant work authorization and documentation evidencing such authorization.

¹ DHS’ SAVE Program is a service that helps federal, state and local benefit-issuing agencies, institutions, and licensing agencies determine the current immigration status of benefit applicants so only those entitled to benefits receive them.

4. How many individuals have obtained SSNs as a result of the November 20, 2014, memorandum?

None. Please see our response to question 3.

5. Have any of these individuals applied for and received benefits under either the Social Security Disability Insurance program or the Supplemental Security Income program?

No. Please see our response to question 3.