

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2014

Ms. Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner of Social Security
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235-0001

Dear Commissioner Colvin:

For more than seventy years, Social Security has ensured that older citizens can retire without fear of significant financial hardship, that surviving spouses and children are taken care of after the death of a loved one, and that disabled Americans receive support to live full and productive lives.

The proposed closing of four Social Security field offices in -- Amherst, Bronx Hub, Kingston, and Williamsburg, New York -- threatens the promise Congress made to provide personal assistance to seniors and Americans with disabilities in these communities.

These districts represent over 680,000 Social Security beneficiaries, 22 percent of all recipients in New York State. Fifteen percent of these recipients are seniors over the age of 65 receiving Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This population is struggling to make ends meet and generally does not have the financial resources to travel longer distances or access to computers.

Last month, Congress provided an additional \$11.7 billion dollars to the Social Security Administration (SSA) in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill. We believe this additional funding obviates the need to make these previously scheduled closures.

As the economy continues to grow slowly, seniors, the disabled and low-income individuals continue to struggle to make ends meet. We implore you to hold public meetings with community leaders and the public, now and in the future, before proceeding with the closure of Social Security offices, and to listen to the burden and hardship these choices place on seniors and disabled residents. We also would like you to detail the process SSA uses to identify and recommend offices to consider for closure.

Closing and consolidating field offices is a bureaucratic solution that places administrative needs over providing quality customer service to the American public that has paid into Social Security and deserves continued access to the services they have relied on for years.

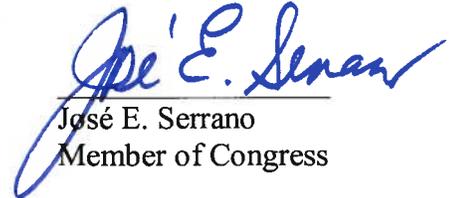
Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

cc: Beatrice Disman
NY Regional Director
Social Security Administration
Office of the Regional Commissioner
26 Federal Plaza
Room 40-120
New York, NY 10278