

September 5, 2012

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

Dear Commissioner Astrue,

Thank you for your August 17, 2012 letter from Carolyn L. Simmons, Regional Commissioner for Social Security operations in the Kansas City Region regarding the closure of the Clinton Social Security Field Office.

We are very concerned about the proposed closure, and again ask you to reconsider your decision. The office currently serves the 49,000 residents of Clinton, including over 10,000 current Social Security beneficiaries. In the last three years, the number of visitors per week to the Clinton office has increased, and these visitors would be forced to travel up to 40 miles to the Davenport office. The closure will result in the Davenport office having to serve a population larger than the national average.

In your response, you said that you reviewed the Clinton office to determine if it makes business sense to continue its operation. We appreciate you providing the factors that you used to come to a decision, but we are requesting more information about the determination of the analysis of these factors. We also requested this case evaluation in a July 18, 2012 letter.

We have heard from multiple community leaders and citizens in opposition to this office closure. The Clinton City Council passed a resolution opposing the consolidation, and we have received numerous letters from constituents who are concerned about the impact on their services.

These community actors were not given an opportunity to express their concerns to the Social Security Administration in advance of the decision. We ask that you do not close the office until you have held a public meeting in Clinton where the public and officials can have their questions about the closure and its impact on their services addressed. We also request that you do not

proceed with moving forward with the closure until you have provided us with a full business case analysis that clearly justifies the office closure.

Sincerely,

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Tom Harkin
United States Senate

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress