



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

February 27, 2025

Lee Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Acting Commissioner Dudek:

I write today to express my profound concern over the pending closure of the Social Security Administration's White Plains hearing office and the uncertain future of full, in-person services at the Poughkeepsie field office.

President Trump repeatedly promised to protect Social Security as a candidate,ⁱ and vowed not to touch it as president.ⁱⁱ The de facto denial of services to hard-working Americans is at odds with the President's vows.

The White Plains office is currently the central service hub for seven New York counties: Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and Sullivan. If the office is indeed shuttered for good, there will be senior citizens and people with disabilities faced with traveling more than 100 miles to the nearest hearing office. Surely this effective denial of services cannot be worth the modest savings on office space that will supposedly justify this decision.

If anything, we need more staff and more offices in New York and across the country. Recent reports show that currently, without the devastating impact of this reported closure, the White Plains office has a roughly 2,000 case backlog and that redetermination hearings come with an eight month wait. It is simply unconscionable to strip away the services altogether rather than trying to fix an already challenging situation.

Similarly, the uncertainty surrounding the full reopening of the Poughkeepsie field office is cause for concern. While the office recently reopened for limited services, New Yorkers needing additional services would need to travel more than an hour away to the next closest field office. Furthermore, given the apparent closure of the White Plains hearing office, it is understandable that people I represent are worried that this is prelude to the office's ultimate closure, rather than its full reopening. Seniors who have spent their lives paying into Social Security deserve clarity and the resumption of full services.

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Social Security is a sacred promise that this country makes to its citizens. It should indeed be protected; not just from cuts or dissolution, but from denial through underfunding or misadministration. If there is a plan to maintain or, hopefully, improve the administration of Social Security benefits, New Yorkers and Americans everywhere deserve to know that. Surely keeping the promise alive is an area where we can all make common cause.

Sincerely,



Letitia James

ⁱ Jamie Joseph, "Harris Claims Trump Win would be 'Catastrophic' for Social Security, but First Term Tells Different Tale," FoxNews.com, Oct. 22, 2024 (available at: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/harris-claims-trump-win-would-catastrophic-social-security-first-term-tells-different-tale>).

ⁱⁱ Katelyn Caralle, "Trump Makes Major Promise on Social Security After DOGE Discovered Millions of Dead Americans Collecting Benefits," DailyMail.co.uk, Feb. 19, 2025 (available at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14414279/trump-promise-social-security-doge-dead-americans-benefits.html>).