

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Leland Dudek  
Acting Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Blvd  
Baltimore, MD 21235

March 4, 2025

Dear Acting Commissioner Dudek,

We write today to express deep concern about the impending closure of the Social Security hearing office in White Plains, New York. We urge you to reverse course immediately and continue operating this vital service in the Hudson Valley.

This past December, the Social Security Administration (SSA) made the final decision to close its Office of Hearings Operations in White Plains on May 31, 2025. This office is the only location of its kind serving the Hudson Valley, including the counties of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and more. The next closest SSA office that provides this same service in the state would be either in New York City or in the Capital Region, both requiring extensive travel for many Hudson Valley residents.

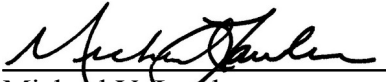
While the majority of hearings that go through White Plains are virtual, keeping an office open for in-person visits and urgent matters is critical. The hearing office currently has a backlog of over 2,000 cases, each representing a real American seeking assistance for disability or other social security benefits. Additionally, the White Plains office conducts hundreds of in-person hearings each year. Closing this office without a viable alternative for affected parties will have an immense impact on New Yorkers already struggling to get by. It's outrageous and frankly, inexcusable.

According to the SSA's Regional Public Affairs Office in New York, the White Plains office is closing because the landlord is not interested in renewing the lease, and SSA opted to close the office rather than find a suitable alternate location. This is a laughable course of action. There is plenty of available office space in the White Plains and surrounding areas, including space that has been offered by the Westchester County government. The decision to close shop without so much as looking for a new space is an abandonment of Hudson Valley residents seeking the Social Security benefits that they have earned.

Social Security payments are lifelines for many of our constituents, and we unconditionally condemn any effort to make receiving these payments more difficult for the American people. The White Plains office provides vital services and closing this office for good will compromise the integrity of the SSA in the region. We sincerely hope you understand our concerns and find some way to continue operations in the Hudson Valley. We would be happy to work with you in this venture.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



George Latimer  
Member of Congress