



# Office of the Inspector General

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Wyden:

I am writing in response to your letter dated April 30, 2025, requesting the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) perform an investigation into the administration of the Death Master File (DMF).

On May 15, 2025, I wrote I had reviewed the questions outlined in your letter concerning SSA's process, determination, and decision authority to transfer individuals to the DMF. Further, the OIG had requested information on whether SSA has recorded in the DMF living noncitizens who: are lawfully present in the United States; have lawfully obtained Social Security numbers; are authorized to work in the country; and are not known to be deceased. Further, OIG would determine our next steps based on the information received from SSA.

This letter is to update you on this matter. SSA confirmed that, in April 2025, the Agency took action "that resulted in certain aliens reported by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) being added to agency death records. This action was taken at the direction of former Acting Commissioner [Leland] Dudek." SSA further stated, "[DHS] informed us these [6,231 individuals] are no longer lawfully present because their parole status has ended." OIG was also informed, "in early June 2025, we [SSA] updated our records, so this population no longer appears as deceased in agency records."


SSA also stated to the OIG that, beginning on June 23, 2025, it added a special indicator to the records of these individuals. The indicator identifies a Social Security number (SSN) assigned to an individual who may have been properly assigned an SSN, but who does not have current immigration status. On June 27, 2025, SSA instructed its employees - if contacted by the individuals whose records have the indicator - to inform them that they may use the DHS "Home" app to understand their options after their parole status has ended.

Based on the information received from SSA, at this time, the OIG's Office of Audit is not planning to evaluate this specific matter further. Please note that, on July 2, 2025, SSA OIG initiated a review to identify reasons SSA incorrectly recorded deaths between January 2020 and December 2024, and whether it complied with policy when correcting them.

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I trust this information is helpful. Should you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact our Congressional Affairs Advisor, Jonathan Blyth, at [Jonathan.J.Blyth@ssa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.J.Blyth@ssa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michelle L. Anderson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Michelle" and last name "Anderson" clearly legible.

Michelle L. Anderson  
Acting Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Peter Welch  
The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

The Honorable Cory A. Booker  
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley  
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman