



# TICKET TO WORK & WORK INCENTIVES ADVISORY PANEL



November 30, 2006

Jo Anne B. Barnhart, Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
100 Altmeyer Building  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235-6401

RE: Publication of Final Rule, Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program;  
Follow Up to Panel's September 28, 2006 Letter

Dear Commissioner Barnhart:

During the Social Security Administration's update at the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel's November 2006 Quarterly Meeting, we learned that the issuance of the final Ticket regulations will be delayed until spring 2007 to address problems with the "Ticket in Use" question that were raised in the September 30, 2005 Notice of Proposed Rule Making. While we commend the Agency for wanting to correct a problem that could affect the training progress of Social Security beneficiaries in higher education, we believe this is a separate issue that should be addressed apart from the release of the final Ticket regulations.

Social Security beneficiaries and Employment Networks (ENs) have shared their concerns with the Panel about the current program and the need for the improved regulations to be published right away. For example, at our November 2006 Quarterly Meeting, a representative from the Marriott Foundation's Bridges from School to Work program reported that that the funding arrangements under the proposed new regulations would allow the organization to roll out their program in six other states and that, without the new regulations, the organization could no longer afford to be an EN in Chicago.

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We ask you to reconsider the decision to delay release of the final Ticket regulations and note that this delay also affects the Agency's plan to market the Ticket program, along with work incentives programs. We request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Agency's rationale for delay. Jill Houghton, the Panel's Executive Director, will contact your office to make arrangements.

Sincerely,



Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte  
Chair  
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel

cc: The Honorable President George W. Bush

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Rick Santorum  
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Social Security & Family Policy

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Social Security & Family Policy

The Honorable Bill Thomas  
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Ranking Democrat, House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable James McCrery  
Chairman, House Social Security Subcommittee

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Democrat, House Social Security Subcommittee