

From: Shah, Kala
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Memo from Secretary Noem
To: Dudek, Leland C.; Poist, Chad; Brown, Dustin S.; McGraw, Stephen
Sent: April 7, 2025 11:41 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Signed Memo - SSA v2.pdf

From: Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 6:24:11 PM
To: (b)(6) Shah, Kala (b)(6) >
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Memo from Secretary Noem

Good Evening,

Attached are two memos from Secretary Noem for the Acting Commissioner.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
JJ

Juliana J. Blackwell
Office of the Executive Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

April 7, 2025

To: Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration

From: Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Protecting Our Country from Suspected Terrorists

[Handwritten signature of Kristi Noem]
4-07-25

Social security numbers are the central administrative unit in our country. Having a social security number enables an individual to open a bank account, get a credit card, and file for government benefits. These are privileges that encourage people to remain in the country. Giving these privileges to suspected terrorists without lawful immigration status incentivizes these dangerous individuals to stay in the United States rather than return to their home countries.

This troubling set of incentives raises national security concerns. Millions of individuals without lawful status—including suspected terrorists—remain in the country, fully integrated into society. Yet the President has declared that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people.” Protecting the American People Against Invasion § 2 (Jan. 20, 2025). The President has further directed agencies to “adopt policies and procedures to encourage aliens unlawfully in the United States to voluntarily depart as soon as possible.” *Id.* § 12.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) assistance in correcting this perverse set of incentives and ridding the country of individuals who threaten national security. DHS requests that SSA take all measures consistent with law to prevent suspected terrorists who are here illegally from using social security numbers to obtain the privileges reserved for those with lawful status, including but not limited to access to financial institutions, state government agencies, credit bureaus, employers, and any other institutions that use social security numbers for verification. DHS will collaborate with you on this project, providing the necessary immigration information and any other assistance that you may require.

Thank you very much for your help with this critical matter of national security.

**Homeland
Security**

April 7, 2025

To: Leland Dudek
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration

From: Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Protecting Our Country from Convicted Criminals

Social security numbers are the central administrative unit in our country. Having a social security number enables an individual to open a bank account, get a credit card, and file for government benefits. These are privileges that encourage people to remain in the country. Giving these privileges to convicted criminals without lawful immigration status incentivizes these dangerous individuals to stay in the United States rather than return to their home countries.

This troubling set of incentives raises national security concerns. Millions of individuals without lawful status—including convicted criminals—remain in the country, fully integrated into society. Yet the President has declared that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people.” Protecting the American People Against Invasion § 2 (Jan. 20, 2025). The President has further directed agencies to “adopt policies and procedures to encourage aliens unlawfully in the United States to voluntarily depart as soon as possible.” *Id.* § 12.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) assistance in correcting this perverse set of incentives and ridding the country of individuals who threaten national security. DHS requests that SSA take all measures consistent with law to prevent convicted criminals who are here illegally from using social security numbers to obtain the privileges reserved for those with lawful status, including but not limited to access to financial institutions, state government agencies, credit bureaus, employers, and any other institutions that use social security numbers for verification. DHS will collaborate with you on this project, providing the necessary immigration information and any other assistance that you may require.

Thank you very much for your help with this critical matter of national security.