



SOCIAL SECURITY
The Commissioner

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to provide you with our agency's fiscal year (FY) 2015 report on official time and expenses for union representational activities. This annual report complies with the requirements in the House Committee on Appropriations' Conference Committee Report 105-205.

In FY 2015, the union representational activities total agency costs were \$15.4 million. As required by our annual appropriations act, the general fund of the United States Treasury will reimburse the Social Security trust funds, with interest, for the portion of these expenses attributable to the trust funds.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, your staff may contact Michelle King, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance, Quality, and Management, at (410) 965-7748.

Sincerely,

Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner

Enclosure

Social Security Administration Report Concerning Expenditures for Union Activities

The Conference Committee Report accompanying the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies’ fiscal year (FY) 1998 appropriations (Report 105-205) addressed the subject of support of union activities. The Committee requested that all departments and agencies report annually on expenditures for union representational activities. Our FY 2015 information is included in the table below:

Official Time for Union Representation Activities	Fiscal Year 2015
Hours of official time spent on union activities	249,690
Employees who used official time on a part-time basis	1,622
Employees who spent 100 percent of their time on union activities	15
	Dollars in Millions
Dollar Value of Official Time (e.g., salary and benefits)	\$13.2
Travel and Per Diem	\$0.6
Office Space, Telephones, and Supplies	\$1.4
Interest	\$0.1
Arbitration Expenses	\$0.1
Total Expenses	\$15.4

The Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute and Social Security Administration’s labor contracts with the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the National Treasury Employees’ Union, and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers obligate the agency to pay for certain costs. These costs include salaries, travel and per diem expenses, office space, telephone, and arbitration costs for union representational activities conducted on official time. Union representatives cannot use official time for certain internal union business (such as soliciting membership, conducting elections, or dues collection). Consistent with language in appropriations acts, the general fund of the Department of the Treasury will reimburse the Social Security trust funds, with interest, for the portion of these expenses attributable to the trust funds.