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April 2, 2025

Hon. Leland Dudek
Acting Administration
U. S. Social Security Administration
250 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20254

RE: Closure of the Social Security Hearing office in White Plains, NY

Dear Acting Administrator Dudek:

We are in receipt of your letter of March 19, responding to Congressman Latimer's concerns about the Social Security Administration's (SSA) intent to not seek a new location for the Office of Hearings Operations (OHO) in White Plains after the lease for the current location at 75 South Broadway expires on May 31.

Quite frankly, we were disappointed in your reply, and its lack of recognition of both the needs of SSA claimants in the Lower Hudson Valley, and our open offer to work with SSA to find an alternative, affordable hearing space, principally by collocating in space offered by Westchester County. Emblematic of SSA's misunderstanding of the situation was the reference to five distant OHOs as being "in the White Plains area." We are aware of these locations, and as previously stated, they are not conveniently located for the affected claimants; in fact, claimants processed through the White Plains, Peekskill and New Rochelle SSA offices would have to travel over 60 miles for an in-person hearing, conference or filing in another state – a task even more difficult for individuals suffering from a disability with no cost effective mass transit options available. No individual with knowledge of the geography and logistics of travel in this region would consider these offices as being in the "White Plains area." Whoever advised you on this clearly does not know what they are talking about.

We entered public service to best support the needs of the people in our communities and find responsible, cost-effective ways to make that possible. As such, we respectfully request that you seriously reconsider our offer to working collaboratively with us to assist our residents and find comparable space in White Plains in a County owned facility to replace OHO closing in May. Our teams are prepared to help facilitate and expedite this process any way within our authority.

Thank you again for your consideration. We are ready to work with you right away.

Sincerely,



George Latimer
Congressman, NY-16



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

cc. Robert Nickerson, Senior Advisor, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs
Social Security Administration