

# Interfaith Worker Justice



1020 West Bryn Mawr, 4th Fl. • Chicago, IL 60660-4627  
Phone: (773) 728-8400 • Fax: (773) 728-8409  
[www.interfaithworkerjustice.org](http://www.interfaithworkerjustice.org)

October 11, 2007

Dear Commissioner Astrue,

We, the undersigned – national and local religious, labor and community leaders from Interfaith Worker Justice, CASA of Maryland, and the Change to Win Federation - gathered today at St. Gabriel Catholic Church here in Baltimore to listen to testimony about the impact the Department of Homeland Security proposed regulation on Employer “No-Match” letters will have on workers and communities. People of every walk of life came together today because there is a clear religious and moral imperative from all our faith traditions that causes us to have great concern about this issue.

Commissioner, the DHS proposed rule on Employer “No-Match” letters will only lead to widespread discrimination and will inevitably cause large numbers of firings of all workers, including native-born American citizens and legal residents.

Yesterday’s decision by U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer to grant a preliminary injunction against DHS initiating its new rule on Employer “No-Match” letters maintains that the plaintiffs will be irreparably harmed by the new rules. We agree and celebrate the courage of Judge Breyer whose legal clarity challenges an attempt by DHS to misuse the SSA’s processes and resources.

Recognizing that proposed DHS regulations can still be implemented, as people of faith we prayerfully urge you and the Department of Homeland Security to reconsider and completely abandon this rule change.

We remind you Commissioner that the mission of the SSA is to “advance the economic security of the nation’s people through compassionate and vigilant leadership.” The Social Security Administration exists to help people live with security. Your Administration, Commissioner, should never be turned into immigration police.

Sincerely,

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