



SOCIAL SECURITY
The Commissioner

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

Enclosed for consideration by the Congress is the Administration's bill that would name a building at Social Security headquarters after the late Robert M. Ball. Mr. Ball was an outstanding public servant and the longest-serving Commissioner in Social Security history. He played a critical role at Social Security throughout the 1950s, the 1960s, and into the 1970s. Mr. Ball was one of the chief architects of Medicare and administered that program for its first 7 years. He also oversaw the development and enactment of Social Security automatic cost-of-living adjustments and the Supplemental Security Income program.

After his resignation as Commissioner in 1973, Mr. Ball served on several official advisory councils and commissions on Social Security, including the Greenspan Commission of 1983. He founded the National Academy for Social Insurance in 1989, and continued to serve as unofficial advisor to many policymakers, while also writing and lecturing extensively on Social Security, welfare, Medicare, and national health insurance until his death on January 29, 2008, at the age of 93.

Mr. Ball left an indelible mark on Social Security programs and the agency. His commitment to Social Security was unequalled, and he will be remembered as a great and inspirational leader. It is therefore proper and fitting that a building at our headquarters complex be named in his honor.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that it has no objection to the submission of this draft bill from the standpoint of the Administration's program. We urge the Congress to give the draft bill prompt and favorable consideration

I am sending an identical letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Astrue

Enclosures



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The Commissioner

July 31, 2009

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President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Enclosures

Redesignation of a Federal Building as the "Robert M. Ball Building"

The Social Security Administration's headquarters is located in a complex of buildings in Baltimore County, Maryland. One of the buildings in the complex is known as the "Operations Building," so designated originally because of the day-to-day operational nature of the work that was done in the building.

The provision would change the name of the Operations Building to the "Robert M. Ball Building" in honor of an important figure in the Nation's social insurance system and a leader of the Social Security Administration throughout the 1950s, the 1960s, and into the early 1970s. As the agency's longest serving Commissioner, Mr. Ball was recognized as a tireless worker, inspirational leader, outstanding administrator, dedicated humanitarian, and persuasive champion of the principles of Social Security. Mr. Ball died on January 29, 2008, at the age of 93.

A BILL

To redesignate the Federal building at 6401 Security Boulevard, in Baltimore, Maryland, known as the "Operations Building," as the "Robert M. Ball Building."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC.1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building at 6401 Security Boulevard, in Baltimore, Maryland, known as the, "Operations Building," shall be known and redesignated as the "Robert M. Ball Building."

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert M. Ball Building."