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## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3602

February 22, 2010

Lou M. Ambrose  
5235 Westview Drive, Suite 100  
Frederick, MD 21703

Dear Louis:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the proposal to make social security available to immigrants. I appreciate hearing from you about this important and timely matter.

Concerns about the number of illegal aliens residing in the United States, the recently signed Totalization Agreement between the United States and Mexico and Congressional actions regarding immigration reform have increased concerns about the eligibility of non-citizens for U.S. Social Security benefits. Be assured, I will never support any effort to make Social Security funds available for illegal immigrants or foreign workers who have not paid into the Social Security system.

Totalization Agreements are used to coordinate Social Security programs across borders. A Totalization Agreement eliminates the need to pay Social Security taxes in more than one country when U.S. companies send workers abroad and it protects the benefits of a worker that spends part of their career in another country.

At the present time, the United States has agreements with 21 countries and is in conversation with an additional 2 countries. On June 29, 2004, the United States and Mexico signed a Totalization Agreement. Once an agreement is signed, it is sent to the Secretary of State and then on to the President for review. The President may then transmit the agreement for Congressional review. The agreement with Mexico has not yet been transmitted to Congress, and reportedly, is still undergoing review at the Social Security Administration. It is important to note that Congress has never rejected a Totalization Agreement.

As Congress continues to debate immigration reform, I will be sure to monitor this issue closely. I believe that we must focus on securing our borders before concentrating on other programs. With this in mind, I will do my best to protect the jobs and tax dollars of hard working Americans like you.

Thank you again for contacting me, and please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be helpful in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress

DDB: hc

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