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February 18, 2004

Commissioner of Social Security Administration
P.O. Box 17703
Baltimore, MD 21235-7703

RE: "Evidence Requirements for Assignment of Social Security Numbers (SSNs);
Assignment of SSNs to Foreign Academic Students in F-1 Status"
[Regulations no. 22], RIN 0960-AF87

Dear Commissioner:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule. We agree with the comments made in the February 10, 2004 letter from Dr. David Ward on behalf of several higher education associations. We believe the proposed rule would be burdensome to both F1 students and to schools, would place undue hardship on F1 students, and would have limited impact on reducing the opportunity for fraud through misuse of SSNs. We also believe that to implement this change would present another hurdle to recruiting outstanding international students into graduate programs in the United States.

Sincerely,



Marye Anne Fox
Chancellor

cc: James L. Oblinger, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Robert Sowell, Dean of the Graduate School