

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) continued his opposition to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) proposal to close the office in Auburn by requesting a meeting with SSA officials in Washington.

"I am in no way convinced that the Social Security Administration has thoroughly considered the ramifications of closing their Auburn office," Arcuri said. "I've asked them to provide me with a detailed account of the productivity of the office and how many beneficiaries will be adversely affected by the closing. We know that the baby-boomer generation is on the cusp of retirement and that many local residents do not have the means or the mobility to travel long distances for much-needed services. I am requesting a personal meeting with SSA officials to present them with the concerns of our local seniors."

In his follow-up letter to SSA Commissioner Michael J. Astrue, Arcuri reiterated his strong opposition to the proposed closing of the Auburn office and requested a meeting with Astrue. He also asked that the SSA provide him with a service delivery assessment of the Auburn SSA office and projected annual retirement applications for SSA Area 6 and the entire New York Region for the next five fiscal years.

"I find it unconscionable that SSA would want to cut back on services and require individuals to travel long distances, while incurring added financial burdens, in order to receive the high-quality, face-to-face services Social Security recipients have relied upon for years," Arcuri wrote.

Of the approximately 81,000 people living in Cayuga County, 19,745 are Social Security beneficiaries who receive services through the Auburn office.

Arcuri sent a letter to SSA Commissioner Astrue last month detailing his strong objections to the proposed closure of the Auburn SSA office. Attached is a copy of Arcuri's follow up letter to the SSA.

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