



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Deputy Commissioner

January 18, 2012

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

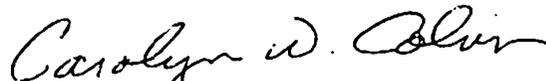
Dear Senator Cochran:

I am writing to provide you with data on the actual expenses for union representational activities at the Social Security Administration in fiscal year (FY) 2011. This annual report is in response to the House Committee on Appropriations' request in its Committee Report 105-205.

In FY 2011, the Unions used a total of 229,195 hours of official time, at a cost of \$12.7 million, for representational activities. As required by language in appropriations acts, the general fund of the Department of the Treasury will reimburse the Social Security trust funds, with interest, for the portion of these expenses attributable to the trust funds.

I hope the enclosed report is helpful. If there are any questions about this report, your staff may contact Michael Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance and Management at (410) 965-3148.

Sincerely,


Carolyn W. Colvin

Enclosure

Social Security Administration (SSA) Report Concerning Expenditures for Union Activities

The Conference Committee Report accompanying the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies' fiscal year (FY) 1998 appropriations (Report 105-205) addressed the subject of support of union activities. The Committee requested that all departments and agencies report annually on expenditures for union representational activities. Our FY 2011 information is included in the table below:

Official Time for Union Representation Activities (Dollars in Millions)	Fiscal Year 2011
Hours of official time spent on union activities	229,195
Employees who used official time on a part-time basis	1,390
Employees who spent 100% of their time on union activities	22
Dollar Value of Official Time (e.g., salary and benefits)	\$11.2
Travel and Per Diem	\$0.6
Office Space, Telephones, and Supplies	\$0.9
Arbitration Expenses	<u>1/</u>
Total Expenses	\$12.7

1/ Less than \$200,000

The Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute and SSA's labor contracts with the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the National Treasury Employees' Union, and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers obligate the agency to pay for certain costs. These include salaries, travel and per diem expenses, office space, telephone, and arbitration costs for union representational activities conducted on official time. We do not grant official time for internal union business (such as soliciting membership, conducting elections, or dues collection). Consistent with language in appropriations acts, the general fund of the Department of the Treasury will reimburse the Social Security trust funds, with interest, for the portion of these expenses attributable to the trust funds.