

ALAN GRAYSON
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WESTERN HEMISPHERE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0909

430 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-9889

ORLANDO DISTRICT OFFICE
5842 SOUTH SEMORAN BOULEVARD
ORLANDO, FL 32822
(407) 615-8889

KISSIMMEE DISTRICT OFFICE
101 NORTH CHURCH STREET
SUITE 550
KISSIMMEE, FL 34731
(407) 518-4983

grayson.house.gov

January 8, 2015

The Honorable Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401

Dear Acting Commissioner Colvin:


I write to relay concerns several recently married same-sex couples in Florida have conveyed to me regarding the processing of their name change requests, and ask for your assistance in immediately addressing their concerns.

As you know, same-sex marriage became legal in Florida on January 6, 2015, two short days ago. As the sole Congressman representing Osceola County, Florida, it was an honor to coordinate, alongside our local Clerk of Court, Armando Ramirez, the availability of marriage ceremonies beginning at 12:01am that morning. I even served as a witness and ring-bearer for the very first same-sex marriage to occur in Osceola County, the union of County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb and her now-wife, Patti Daugherty, who have been together for 22 years.

Unfortunately, following the elation of that day, several newlywed couples are concerned with the manner in which their name change request will be processed by the Social Security Administration ("SSA"). While the local SSA office that processes name changes is accepting applications, several people have been told that their application cannot be processed until the SSA updates its policies and reviews the legal standing of their marriage under Florida law. If this review, in fact, is needed, I urge you to complete it today. Too many Floridians have waited too long to become a family recognized by their own government. They should not have to wait one minute more to have their love acknowledged.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Susannah Randolph of my staff at susannah.randolph@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-9889.

Sincerely,



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress