

MEMORANDUM

To: Milton Brown

From: Sara W. Morris, Office of Congressional Affairs

Subject: Docket Number: 080324461-8462-01 (The Household Eligibility and Application Process of the Coupon Program for Individuals Residing in Nursing Homes and Households that Utilize Post Office Boxes; Waiver)

*Oral Ex Parte Communication of Staff Representing U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Robert Menendez*

Date: June 24, 2008

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On June 24, 2008, Sara Morris of NTIA's Office of Congressional Affairs spoke telephonically with Cara Goldstein, Policy Advisor, Senate Special Committee on Aging (Sen. Herb Kohl, Chairman); and Justin Field, Legislative Assistant to Senator Robert Menendez, regarding NTIA's proposed waiver of the eligibility requirements for nursing homes and assisted living facilities under its TV Converter Box Coupon Program rules.

Specifically, Ms. Goldstein and Mr. Field expressed a view that seniors not be required to meet a higher threshold for purposes of identity verification under any potential new rules covering residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, noting that such requirements may impose an additional burden to seniors, in particular. Ms. Goldstein and Mr. Field noted that Congress had intended that this population be eligible for coupons under the TV Converter Box Coupon Program established by Congress, and that NTIA's proposal to require submittal of various forms of identity by nursing home residents or their agents (including Social Security Numbers, power of attorney) creates an additional hurdle for seniors.