

## **Mythbuster!!**

### **Myth: The Senate voted to allow illegal aliens to access our Social Security!**

This common myth is again making the rounds in viral emails and online petitions. Before deleting the frustrating forward, consider responding with these quick mythbusting facts!

**FACT:** Contrary to what people think, undocumented workers are not (and have never been) eligible to claim social security benefits. Moreover, most undocumented workers will use a false social security number to prove work authorization, therefore paying money into a benefit system that they will never be eligible to use.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), undocumented immigrants “account for a major portion” of the billions of dollars paid into the Social Security system under names or social security numbers that don’t match SSA records. As of October 2005, the reported earnings on which these payments are based—which are tracked through the SSA’s Earnings Suspense File (ESF)—totaled \$520 billion.

More mythbusting facts on this issue can be found in [\*The Economic Impact of Immigration\*](#), a policy brief prepared by the Immigration Policy Center (IPC).