The Trump administration reportedly sent 'no-match letters' to over 570,000 employers telling them they might have unauthorized workers

President Donald Trump boarding Air Force One on Thursday for a trip to New York to attend a fundraiser. Associated Press

- **President Donald Trump's administration has written to more than 570,000 employers since March telling them some of their workers' names and Social Security numbers don't match, The New York Times reports.**
- **Reasons for discrepancies that prompt "no-match letters" can be innocuous, like marital name changes and typos on forms, but they can also indicate immigration status.**
- **The Social Security Administration discontinued its practice of writing the letters in 2012 but restarted it this March under a White House order.**
- **Critics say the revival of the letters is part of the Trump administration's harder line on immigration and unauthorized workers.**
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President Donald Trump's administration has revived the dormant immigration practice of writing to employers to warn them if any of their workers' names and Social Security numbers don't match, The New York Times reports.

The Social Security Administration has mailed "no-match letters" to more than 570,000 employers since March this year, The Times said.

These letters notify employers who submitted W-2 tax forms — which contain employees' names and Social Security numbers — if those combinations don't match. Reasons for these discrepancies can be innocuous, like marital name changes and typos on forms, but they can also indicate immigration status.

Adolfo Rodriguez Lopez, 41, has never returned to Mexico to visit his wife and four sons in Ensenada, Mexico, during the 12 years he has lived in the United States.
Gus Ruelas/Reuters

No-match letters do not require employers to take action against an employee but instruct them to correct the mismatch within 60 days, according to Bloomberg Law.

Here's an example of a no-match letter as shown on the SSA's website.

The SSA started sending these letters in 1993, stopped doing so in 2012, and then restarted the practice this March.

Though the no-match letters do not threaten legal action, employers are left in limbo as they have to weigh the loss of workers with the chances of being punished by federal immigration authorities in the future.

Read more: *State and FBI investigators are reportedly probing allegations that Trump's New Jersey golf club gave fake green cards to unauthorized workers*

An American flag next to signage for a United States Social Security Administration office in Burbank, California.Reuters/Fred Prouser

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It is not clear whether the SSA plans to share the data mismatches with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Business Insider has contacted the SSA for comment.

The US workforce contains 162 million people, of which 156 million are employed, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last month. There were about 7.8 million unauthorized workers in the US civilian workforce in 2016, according to Pew Research.

Though the exact reason for the revival of the no-match letters is not clear, experts say it appears to be part of Trump's increasingly hardline approach toward immigration.

Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García at a rally in Chicago in January 2015. Jim Young/Reuters

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Forty-six Democratic lawmakers wrote a letter to the SSA earlier this month calling on it to stop writing the letters.

Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García, the Democratic representative from Illinois who organized the letter, told The Hill earlier this month: "Other than to instill fear and to add to the series of attacks that have come down against the immigrant community — whether it's the Census question, whether it's the public charge initiative against lawful permanent residents — this is one more tool in their arsenal, I think, to drive the community into the shadows of society, to create more anti-immigrant sentiment in the country, and just to create fear and instability in communities with large immigrant populations."

"What's the purpose?" he added. "What's the aim here? We think it is simply to create distrust, to advance the anti-immigrant rhetoric that's out there."

The SSA has said it is sending the letters because it is "committed to maintaining the accuracy of earnings records used to determine benefit amounts to ensure people get the benefits they have earned," according to Bloomberg Law.

Trump at the White House. Reuters

The Trump administration on Thursday announced a plan to overhaul a large portion of the country's immigration laws to prioritize skilled workers over family relationships.

The plan would essentially shift the US immigration system from one based on family ties to a "merit and skill" one that would prioritize highly educated and skilled workers who could demonstrate a "patriotic assimilation" into American

life.

Read more: *Trump's new immigration bill is 'dead on arrival' — but its real value could be shoring up his immigration strategy for 2020*

Lawmakers and legal experts have already derided the bill as "dead on arrival," but administration officials have hinted that it was to show 2020 voters what the Republican Party supports, INSIDER's Michelle Mark reported.